

A FAMILY REUNION: MEXICO AND LYON

On 10 September 2024 I received 5 fathers and a postulant from the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit, a congregation founded by the Venerable Father Félix de Rougier in 1914 in Mexico. I showed them around Puylata (Lyon), the chapel where Félix de Rougier celebrated his first Mass. It was a joyful family reunion, according to our visitors.

Roger Lordong, sm



CASA DI MARIA STUDENTS MEET MARIST PUPILS, LYON

On the same day, Roger Lordong, sm accompanied the 5 seminarians from Casa di Maria to the Marist school at La Verpillière to share their testimony with the pupils. They celebrated Mass after lunch with the headmaster and the pastoral team. In groups of 2, they met pupils from the primary, lower and upper secondary schools.

"We told them about our vocation as Marist seminarians studying in Rome and, to our great surprise, they were very enthusiastic about getting to know us and our vocation." [\[Read the full article here\]](#) *Charles Sangul sm, Casa di Maria*

« It was a great opportunity to get a taste of Marist education, but even more there was real sharing." *Ngwese Ndema Godlove sm, Casa di Maria*

"A wonderful day on our part. It's a means of evangelisation."

Larry Duffy sm, Formator at Casa di Maria

MEETING OF THE MARIST FAMILY ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2024, LYON

On 12 September our Marist family from the Lyon region gathered at the sanctuary of Fourvière to celebrate the patronal feast of the Holy Name of Mary. We were very happy to welcome six young Marists (three from Cameroon, one from Togo, one from Vanuatu and one from New Zealand) who had come from our theologate in Rome. They came to spend a month at La Neylière to prepare for their final vows. They represent the youth and hope of the Society of Mary.

'When you have God for yourself, when you rely on him alone, nothing is impossible, nothing is impossible'. That was the refrain of the kyrie.



Raymond Pelletier, sm

Kevin Duffy, sm



DEAR MARIST FRIENDS

This morning, I listened to a Sunday sermon in a rural parish in Lorraine, France where the priest reflected on Pope Francis's recent visit to Belgium and Luxembourg. It reminded me of something rather puzzling that Pope Francis said in one of his publications. He quoted a German poet saying, "Where the danger is, there lies also the saving power." In terms of virulent anti-church feeling particularly in the wake of church scandals, Belgium presents particular challenges. You cannot but admire the courage of the 87-year-old Pope going there in the first place and then reacting to harsh criticism with patience and humility. Perhaps all this is "saving power" at work? In terms of our own history, we only have to think of Fr Colin in the 20 years following Fourvière or missionaries setting off for Oceania. What would it be for us to be as courageous today?

PRAYER INTENTION

the Marist Family in Norway

AN SMSM SISTER'S MISSIONARY EXPERIENCE IN LONDON, ENGLAND

At the beginning of 2018, without warning, I was parachuted into London, a mission I never dreamt of or imagined. Our SMSM Constitutions say *'we are missionaries for life wherever the congregation sends us.'* C 15

I left the verdant islands of Vanuatu to land in the centre of London. In the heart of this huge capital, in the most touristy part of town, there is a little corner of paradise called 'Notre Dame de France', a parish run by the Marist Fathers, Sisters and lay people working in a variety of parish and social services.

A magnificent church, tucked between restaurants and cinemas, offers a haven of peace, silence and prayer for all. A lively and radiant parish that welcomes Christians from various parts of London for liturgical and catechetical celebrations in French, as well as working in English with refugees, the destitute and the homeless. Personally, I devoted myself more to catechesis in the chaplaincy adjoining the Lycée Charles de Gaulle. My main apostolate was preparing young children, school-age children and adult catechumens for baptism. I also discovered the *Tandem* groups of young couples. These were young, open-minded, dynamic adults who were committed to their Christian life at this new stage. Later, I joined the Teams of Our Lady, who share in the faith the joys and difficulties of work and family life.



And on 3 September 2024, I embarked on a new pastoral mission in the community of St Victoret–Marignane, near Marseilles in France. But the memory of my stay in England will remain engraved in my heart with all my gratitude. As Pope Francis says so well, *'the joy of the Gospel fills the heart and the whole life of those who meet Jesus... With Jesus Christ joy is always born and reborn'*.

Sister Marie Emmanuel Fuchs, smsm

MARIST SUMMER STUDIES PROGRAM: 8 JULY - 2 AUGUST 2024 IN ROME, ITALY

Siri-Beate from Norway reports: I was fortunate enough to attend the Marist Summer Studies this year. I participated as the contact for the Laity from Norway. Although I was the only Norwegian, I wasn't alone! Participants came from NZ, Fiji, Bougainville, Solomon Islands, Philippines, Norway, USA and Canada and were from Marist Laity, SMSM Sisters, and SM Brothers and Priests, including a teacher from a Marist school, and an employee from the Marist archives. This created an exciting learning environment. Additionally, we were blessed with three wonderful young seminarians from Casa di Maria.

We visited Orvieto and the General Houses of the Fathers and the SMSM Sisters. We followed the footsteps of Fr Colin in Rome, a wonderful experience. *There is something very special about following in the footsteps of our founder.* It was great to meet so many branches of the Marist family. The course is highly recommended!

