



PENTECOST WEEKEND WITH THE LAY MARIST AND JOHN LARSEN IN LA NEYLIÈRE

The French Lay Marists gathered at La Neylière over the Pentecost weekend with John Larsen, Superior General of the Marist Fathers, who shared his reflections on the theme 'Nothing is impossible with God: do you believe it?' (Luke 1:37). (Attached the [French](#) and [English](#) text).

He reminded us that Mary was called by her name and given a role in the history of salvation, and how this can challenge us in our lives as Marists and lay people to respond to the call that the Lord addresses to us.

Mary is a missionary of joy (Luke 1: 39-56) and he also mentioned the missionary zeal of lay Marists like Françoise Perroton and Suzanne Aubert. 'There are still lay Marists who offer part of their lives to go abroad to distant Marist missions and bring the Good News to the people there. This movement of lay Marists on mission is very useful, especially for young people or sometimes for retired lay Marists.'

Among the activities offered were a bibliodrama, a visit to the two museums, meditation in the oratory in front of the mural, and the renewal of vows for the members of the association at the 11 a.m. Mass celebrated by John Larsen on Sunday with the local community of La Neylière.

This was followed by the general assembly meeting and the election of a new board with Odile de Villenaut as president replacing Bernard Fenet, Anne Busseti as treasurer, and Marie-Claude Grulier remaining as secretary.

Odile de Villenaut
President of the Lay Marist Association, France

DEAR MARIST FRIENDS

St Peter Julian Eymard was an incredibly successful organiser of the Marist Third Order in France. Given his head, he could have spread his network throughout the country. The Founder wouldn't let him, quite simply because Father Eymard's model was too inward-looking and too focussed on the Marist Fathers branch of the Marist Family. Father Colin saw lay Marists as more outward looking, more flexible in their organisation, and more autonomous. In this month's EuroInfo we hear about a recent meeting of the French Lay Marists in La Neylière attended by John Larsen, the Superior General. Present groups of lay Marists in the different countries of the province are ageing, like the Marist Fathers. Some groups are probably coming to their natural end but there are also signs of regrouping and of fresh shoots.

Kevin Duffy, sm

PRAYER INTENTION:

renewal and growth in the Lay Marist movement in Europe



ANNIVERSARIES OF ORDINATION IN EUROPE

Ordination - Golden jubilee: 50 years

René Godard 25.05, Peter Wiesmann 13.06, Raymond Pelletier 14.06, John Harrington, Paul Walsh and Laurence Duffy 06.07.



MARIST FAMILY RELIGIOUS MEETING IN ST FOY

Marist Family leadership teams in France met together in Lyon on 24 June. Brothers Gabriel and Javier FMS, Sister Marie Thérèse SM and Fr Kevin SM received a warm welcome in the SMSM house at Ste Foy, hosted by Sisters Anathasie and Hélène SMSM.

As well as sharing news, we were given a guided tour of a house that has played an important role in the history of the SMSM's. Sister Marie Claude shared something of the history of faith and perseverance that has characterized successive generations of sisters in Lyon starting with the first "Pioneers".

At lunch the retired missionary sisters presently residing there indicated the wide reach of their missionary activities in various countries from Dakar to New Caledonia, Algeria to Vanuatu.

Kevin Duffy, Provincial Europe

NATIONAL ADMINISTRATORS AND BURSARS MEETING IN PARIS

This meeting was held in Paris on 11th June with the provincial finance administration. Each country was represented by its national administrator and national bursar. This year the meeting was only one day long. Each country gave a detailed account of its financial situation and which actions they were planning to adopt in the coming year. The central purpose of the meeting is to foster the financial unity of the province or to build up the WE of the province by the sharing of information from each Unit.

The provincial bursar gave an input on succession planning in the financial area and on the directions, we should take in the next number of years. Cora Dubruque-Cantù, our financial administration manager gave a detailed presentation of the accounts of the UESM. Pat Brophy represented the General Administration as Bursar along with Giovanni Maria Manozzi and spoke about the development projects the GA were funding in Marist mission areas. He also thanked the province for its generosity to the global SM.

Some of the evaluation forms suggested that for next year we should include some small group work to look concretely at what we need to plan and achieve over the next few years.

Jimmy McElroy, Provincial Bursar



EDUCATION MEETING IN ROME



A meeting of the European Education Commission took place in the General House in Rome on the 17th of June. Fr. Larsen attended and fully participated in the meeting. This was the first time that the Education Commission met in Rome. It was a symbolic gesture.

Following the Education Forum in Toulon in 2023 on the future of Marist Education in Europe, the involvement of the General Administration is seen as crucial to ensure the Marist legacy in European Education.

Frank Dowling, European Delegate for Education