



## JUBILEE YEAR 2025

As widely expected, Rome is the heart of the Jubilee in Italy. It attracts the attention of many people (pilgrims and tourists) from all over the world. The presence of the Vatican, the Pope, St. Peter's Basilica, the Roman basilicas and the beauty of the Eternal City leaves little room for other realities that also exist. This year, the death of Pope Francis and the election of Pope Leo XIV have given Rome even greater appeal.

But the Jubilee Year is not only in Rome! All our cities and territories are dotted with "**Jubilee Churches**", where every believer and every pilgrim can receive the gift of indulgence, reconciliation and forgiveness. There are countless places in Italy, some more famous than others, worthy of this honour and service.

When our diocese informed us at the end of November 2024, with a simple phone call, that our **Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes** had been chosen as one of the six **Jubilee Churches in the city of Turin**, we were very surprised. We would never have imagined that our little Marist church, immersed and almost hidden by the tall buildings of Corso Francia, would be called to such an important service. Our community, together with some lay people, made itself available for jubilee celebrations, confessions and hospitality. In recent months, various parish and ecclesial groups have visited the Sanctuary to celebrate their Jubilee. We are present to animate the celebrations and to hear confessions, always in collaboration with the parish priests. We have noticed a considerable increase in confessions.

Pope Francis chose as the motto for the Jubilee "**Pilgrims of Hope**", to "*foster the restoration of a climate of hope and trust, as a sign of a renewed rebirth that we all feel is urgently needed*". We hope that our simple service will bear fruit of hope and trust in all those who come to us to welcome the infinite love of the Father.

*Renato Frappi, sm*

## DEAR MARIST FRIENDS,

In August, for many organisations the default position is sleep mode.

Not so for EuroInfo!

In the Society of Mary, the forthcoming General Chapter in September/October fills a good bit of the horizon. More and more we find ourselves saying, "We will have to return to that after the chapter." As you will read below, we had our 2025 provincial retreat in the house where Father Colin wrote his Constitutions and where he is buried. During the retreat, we heard his insistence that the survival and growth of the Society would depend on the prayers offered for it. This makes the choice of the prayer intention for August an easy one.

*Kevin Duffy, sm*

## PRAYER INTENTION

that the Holy Spirit will guide the forthcoming General Chapter



## ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION IN EUROPE

Ordination 65 years: Rudolf Bleischwitz 15.08



## EUROPEAN PROVINCIAL RETREAT 2025

This provincial retreat was first and foremost an opportunity for a fraternal reunion with regulars of what had become an institution: from Norway to Spain, from Ireland to Italy, the European retreat allows us to get to know each other and then to meet again, in true joy, praying together, close to the Founder, in our various languages.

Participants in the last retreat found it like a workshop and asked for more time for prayer. The 2025 edition was organized to respond to this. There were over twenty retreatants. The Provincial, **Fr. Kevin Duffy**, preached the **retreat**, with Odile de Villenaut, Provincial Secretary, in charge of the organisation. It took place in complete silence for four days, focusing on our **Constitutions**. We reread passages from the current Constitutions (1987) in the light of the Constitutions written in 1872 by the Founder. The Colinian text points to paths that have been somewhat forgotten but are regaining importance in today's world. Thank you to the translators!

The last day was an 'Emmaus journey' of sharing and evaluation. During Mass, the religious vows and lay promises were renewed. René Godard and Raymond Pelletier celebrated their 50 years of priesthood. Jimmy McElroy coordinated the collective prayer, following the rhythm of La Neylière, Lauds, Mass and Vespers. Jean-Marie Bloqueau, the superior of the community, presided over the services. The **La Neylière team** took care of the daily routine with dedication, and we enjoyed cuisine that lived up to its reputation.

The landscape of the Monts du Lyonnais is conducive to meditation while walking... but the capricious weather was not always favourable. Some even got caught in heavy showers...

*Jean-Bernard Jolly, sm*

## MARIST DAY IN ENGLAND 2025



Saturday 5th of July 2025 was the day of our annual Marist pilgrimage to **Walsingham**. The tennis at Wimbledon was left behind and the recent heat wave was put on hold as we made our way to the **National Shrine of Our Lady**: by coach and by car from various parts of England, in time for the opening Concelebrated Mass. As we all gathered in the Chapel of Reconciliation, memories were stirred of previous Marists who had been directors of the shrine, especially of Clive Birch greatly instrumental in its building. But we have moved on and this was clearly put by Kevin Duffy in his inclusive homily as he welcomed us all, Marists and non-Marists, to the celebration. Reminding us of Mary our mother who hears all our prayers.

As we have found annually, our meals together in the garden is an ideal time to catch up with friends from the various Marist houses throughout

England and others who keep this a date in their calendar.

One of the focal points of the day, the **Holy Mile Walk** into the village of Walsingham, was ably organised by Noel Wynn before we all gathered in the Parish Church for our Evening Prayer: this year enhanced by the renewed commitment to the lay branch of the Society of Mary by a member from Manchester.

The traditional strawberry cream teas proved a fitting end, as most of us made our way home, after yet another joyful Marist Day together in Walsingham.

*Peter Corcoran, sm*