

MARIST SUMMER STUDIES 2025, ROME



The 4th Marist Study Summer School at Casa di Maria brought together people from a diverse range of backgrounds, age and experience: Marist priests, a Marist sister, two SMSM sisters and lay people, with

each continent represented. Larry Duffy and three students, Alex, Machiu and Zoubair, the last at present a Marist Brother, welcomed us warmly and ensured we were provided with everything we needed. Working with such an international group over rather more than three weeks must have been a considerable challenge, but Larry's experience, wisdom and leadership meant that we became a real Marist community, sharing prayer, meals and insights.

There were many opportunities at all levels *to deepen our knowledge and understanding of the Marist charism*: access to the library and online resources; sessions on spirituality and history led by Larry, on the different branches of the Marist family by the representatives present, on ecology by Ben McKenna and on 'hidden and unknown' by Faustino Ferrari; visits to places in Rome of significance for Fr Colin; and a reflection during Mass celebrated by the Superior General. There was also time for our own reading, research and writing, which resulted in 12 completely different and absorbing presentations.

All participants were very appreciative of the opportunity, and very grateful to Larry for his hard work, and to everyone who made it possible.

*Wilhelm Tangen, SM, Meppen, Germany
Dilys Wadman, Walsingham/Wells, England*

On a more personal note:

First, it gave me the opportunity to immerse myself in Marist scholarship, which I found inspiring. I believe it is essential that this is continued in all the cultural contexts in which the Marists have a presence, and that *Marist thinking draws on the riches of other cultural traditions*.

Second, I valued the experience of living for a short time in a Marist community with members from many different parts of the world. It seems to me that the international reality of the Society should continue to be affirmed, celebrated and explored.

Third, the chance to engage in different ways with Marists from varied backgrounds and perspectives deepened my understanding of Marist identity. Fourth, the availability of a piano at Casa di Maria meant that I was able to practice and, at Larry's insistence, to play for the group – a lovely opportunity. Finally, after many years I did some 'academic' writing and produced an article on Synodality and the Society of Mary. This confirmed my view that the Society has an essential contribution to make to the Church today.

Dilys Wadman, Lay Marist

DEAR MARIST FRIENDS,

I wrote these words in Montparnasse, Paris, a couple of days before I was scheduled to fly out of Orly airport to participate in the General Chapter. The French Prime Minister had called for a vote of confidence. The big question in my mind was if my flight would be cancelled or not given that protesters had decided to "block everything"! We'll see. Whatever the temporary difficulties, we can hope that we all arrived safely for what is an important event for the Society of Mary. We will elect the Superior General and his Councillors, take stock, and determine the main policy guidelines for the Society in the coming eight years. This makes the choice of this month's prayer intention an easy one...

Kevin Duffy, sm

PRAYER INTENTION

that the Holy Spirit will guide the forthcoming General Chapter

SIX MONTHS AT THE ALBERGUE OF SANTA CRUZ, SAHAGÚN



Before I arrived in Spain, I had also pictured sunshine as the norm. I arrived in Sahagún in early March and was greeted by a light fall of snow. However, compared to New Zealand winters, I did not mind it all, as the wind was not such a big factor. Early morning walks were a good way to acclimatise myself.

From the beginning, my community here at the Albergue of Santa Cruz has been incredibly welcoming, even though my Spanish is pretty rusty. The first month was quiet, giving me the chance to settle in and learn the daily rhythms

of the Albergue. When we are not full, there is more space to spend time with the pilgrims, and in those early weeks I had the privilege of hearing many deeply moving stories of life, faith, and the journeys that brought people to the Camino.

By "Semana Santa" (holy week), the flow of pilgrims had quickened. May and June brought full rooms almost every night, and with them the busyness and energy of a house alive with travellers. We have been blessed with many volunteers and hospitallers from all over the world, each bringing their own culture and experiences to enrich our shared work. As July and August arrived, numbers dipped with the summer heat — as they always do — but we know September will see the trail fill again.

Looking back over these first six months, I see a *ministry that is both repetitive and endlessly varied*. The tasks may be the same, but each day is new because each pilgrim is new. Our pilgrim café, shared dinner, and daily Mass mark our Albergue as a *place where the Church is present on the Camino*, and where we seek to share Mary's gentle presence with the weary. Here, much like Mary, we trust God's providence — believing that He works quietly through us for the good of both pilgrims and hosts.

Matt Crawford, sm (on the left in the picture)

MARIST FAMILY PRAYER NETWORK OF INTERCESSION

As the year moves on it is time to reflect on the Ministry of Intercession and its growing numbers involving Marist confreres as well as a significant number of lay people associated with the Society of Mary and its apostolates. This is a gentle reminder to all involved to maintain contact between Intercessors and Prayer Companions for the many Marist projects.



There are still intentions to be taken on for those who would like to volunteer to be Intercessors:

- * León Casa Sacerdotal community in Spain,
- * Community and ministry of the General Administration in Rome, Italy
- * Marist Laity – European Coordination Group (EMLC)

If you are involved in a Marist project/initiative and you would like us to pray for it, please do get in touch with us. Email: provincialsecretary@maristeurope.eu

We have begun our General Chapter and, no doubt, some of the decisions of the Chapter will affect the lives communities and individuals. In our pre-chapter prayers, we have been asking the Holy Spirit to "fill us with the same boldness and zeal as Mary, the women and the apostles".

May the Marist Family Prayer Network of Intercession help Marists to be instruments of mercy "in a world longing for God's healing touch."

Des, Martin, Odile



PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER IN EUROPE

40 Mario Castellucci, Alois Greiler, John McAllister, Agostino Piovesan, Ivan Vodopivec ♦ 45 Erik Ruud ♦ 50 Jose Antonio Fernandez ♦ 55 Sean McArdle, James McElroy, Raymond Pelletier, Peter Wiesemann ♦ 60 Thomas Burns, Desmond Hanrahan, Alois Dreyer ♦ 65 Jan Hulshof, Michael Maher, Adrian Smith, Wilhelm Wilholt ♦ 70 Thomas Dooley, Cornelis Hooymayers, Pierino Ionta, James O'Connell ♦ 75 Edmund Duffy