



ECHOES FROM THE 150 ANNIVERSARY PILGRIMAGE IN LA NEYLIÈRE

On 15th November we celebrated the 150th anniversary of Fr Colin's death – you can find the videos, reflections (<https://maristeurope.eu/colin150>) and daily reports from the recent *Pilgrimage to the Marist Places of Origin* on our website: <https://maristeurope.eu/news>. The talks and reflections from the pilgrimage will be also available shortly in English and French.

Here are some testimonies from pilgrims:

"I was moved by the faith and history that came alive, walking in the footsteps of Jean-Claude Colin with Marists from so many parts of the world. It was a truly spiritual experience. The hospitality, talks and times of prayer were deeply appreciated."

Joe Hindelang, s.m.(USA)

"It was good to see Marists from different countries, cultures and ideas. It was good to experience Marist spirit from more than my own home town. All in all, a great pilgrimage!"

Ron Nikodem, s.m.(USA)

"I greatly enjoyed the pilgrimage we made in Colin's footsteps. However, I must admit that what I enjoyed most was meeting various colleagues whom I had not seen for a long time. Others, whose names and reputations I had heard, allowed me to put a face of a holy man to their names. I was impressed by the quality of the Marist lay people who joined the pilgrimage. Again, these were very beautiful encounters. From Saint-Bonnet-le-Troncy to La Neylière, we were able to follow in the footsteps of a man who was considered a saint. I even recognised the same smell of cows! From the cradle to the grave, a simple, authentic environment, close to nature, inviting us to draw closer to the divine."

Mario Béland, s.m.(Canada)

"The pilgrimage in La Neylière helped me rediscover the life of Father Jean-Claude Colin, a man of the soil who, while living the pastoral realities of the Lyon region, founded a religious family that lives its faith in Christ in the manner of Mary. At the various places we visited, we were welcomed by groups (villagers, school groups, religious communities). Furthermore, in the presentations, I sensed that a Marist future is possible, particularly in La Neylière."

René Godard, s.m. (Belgium)

DEAR MARIST FRIENDS,

"I sensed that a Marist future is possible, particularly in La Neylière." Of all the rich offerings in this month's *EuroInfo*, I'm sure I will be forgiven for picking this sentence from René Godard, as he is a member of the Marist community here in Paris! In the talks during the 150-anniversary pilgrimage to the Marist places we were told more than once that the real pilgrimage begins on the final day. René's sentence can be interpreted in two ways. It can mean: "A Marist future is possible, but particularly in La Neylière." Or it can mean "When I'm in La Neylière, I sense that a Marist future is possible." I think both sentences are true. The pilgrimage goes on as *Relais Mariste* renews itself in Fr Colin's homeland and Marists gather for interreligious dialogue in a country Jean-Claude Colin never heard of.

Secular preparations have started everywhere. Last week, I saw the Christmas decorations being put up in Leon, Spain. And two days ago, we started the new church year with the first Sunday of Advent. It's a bit early but this is the last EuroInfo of 2025.

So, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers!

Kevin Duffy, sm

PRAYER INTENTION

that the Holy Spirit will guide the Marist mission at La Neylière

OBITUARY

Maxime Legros
08.12.2025



FOR THE NDF - HOSTAGE VIDEO



Notre Dame de France (London, Leicester Square) is a beautiful church in the heart of London's West End. No surprise that the church was approached by the online streaming and production company, Netflix and they filmed a couple of scenes there for a new series, the 'Hostage' - check out the video: <https://youtu.be/4f1Oot1l6Dk>



"RELAIS MARISTE" 2025 IN MESNIÈRES EN BRAY, FRANCE



The "Relais Mariste" is a week-long spiritual holiday for families or individuals connected to the Marists. It is an intergenerational gathering that took place from 10 to 16 August 2025.

This year, the 60 participants ranged in age from 5 to 70! They came from Toulon, Lyon, Paris, Arras and Rennes. There were three Marist religious: Sr Aqela Vere from Notre Dame de France, Sr Hélène Diouf from Sainte-Foy-lès-Lyon and myself. We stayed at the Château de Mesnières en Bray, which during the year houses a Catholic vocational training centre (horticulture, forestry and

personal services). ***The theme chosen for this gathering was peace.*** We spent a day hiking together on the Normandy beaches from Pourville to Varangeville-sur-Mer, went on a pilgrimage on 15 August and shared typical days divided between times of reflection for different age groups (young children, primary school, secondary school, sixth form, students and adults) and holiday activities: visiting the region and playing games.

The "Relais Mariste" 2025 had an interfaith dimension with the presence of Raphaël, who is Jewish and is training to be a rabbi, and Karim, who is Muslim. Their presence and contributions enriched our discussions.

I am struck by the longevity and renewal of this project, which began with Bernard Thomasset and Hubert Bonnet-Eymard in 1994. The 2025 team, made up of Agnès and Emmanuel Mannoorettonil from Paris, Claire and Emmanuel Tilmont from Toulon, Magali and Stéphane Bonjour from Toulon, Anne-Aurore and Julien Morel from Lyon, Sophie Desramaut from Arras and I, has breathed new life into the project. It also marks a generational shift compared to previous years.

A new team has been formed to prepare for the 2027 "Relais Mariste"!

Pascal Boidin, Mariste



3RD MARIST MISSION WORKSHOP ON INTERCULTURAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

During the month of November thirteen participants: priests, brothers, sisters and lay Marists from all continents gathered in Thailand, in Bangkok and then in Ranong for the 3rd Marist Mission Workshop on Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue. Europe was represented by Andreas Rupprecht (Germany/Norway) and Anne Marie Salgo (England).

The workshop offered a wide range of opportunities: to get to know each other and our respective missions; to learn about the theology of intercultural and interreligious dialogue; to meet both Buddhist and Muslim leaders and dialogue with them; to get to know about the work of the Marist Asia Foundation in Ranong; to learn about the situation of the Burmese migrants in Ranong; to share a communal life in a different environment with other branches; and also to explore some beautiful places in Thailand.

Anne Marie and Andreas

