

PROMOTING MARIST VOCATIONS, TOULON



I had the opportunity to participate in the Marist Family's vocation promotion event held at the Marist Fathers' schools in Toulon from April 7 to 9. First of all, we were warmly welcomed by the Marist Fathers in their community at 22 rue Victor Clappier. This set the tone for what was to follow. We visited the three schools (elementary, middle, and vocational high school) to share—with students, teachers, and friends—who

we are as the Marist Family: the different branches, their charism, and their mission, through artifacts from various mission countries, photos, PowerPoint presentations, and sharing our personal stories. We were delighted by the young people's enthusiasm in asking questions.

In all areas of life, people want to know and understand what draws us to our life as Fathers, Brothers, and Sisters (religious vows), to the work we do, and to our mission. It was a positive experience to see the students, as well as the catechists and teachers, appreciate the presence of the Marist Fathers and recognize us as the Marist Family sharing the Marist spirituality.



Aqela Likulagi VERE, SMSM

For the past four years, the Marist Schools Authority has been encouraging Marist schools across Europe to organise an event known as 'Marist Week'. The aim is to raise awareness of the Marist Family within our schools. From 7 to 9 April 2026, the three Marist schools in Toulon took part in this initiative. To support the event, handicrafts from our missions in Oceania, Africa and the Americas were displayed.



These days were led by Marist witnesses: Fathers Christian Abongbung, Mika Tuilau, Constant Amoussouga and Rafael Rámila for the Marist Fathers; Sister T. O'Brien for the Marist Sisters; and Sisters Hélène Diouf and Aqela Likulagi Vere for the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary.

The pupils, along with some teachers, discovered a reality previously unimaginable: the Virgin Mary, through her children, men and women, is at work in many countries around the world.

Rafael RAMILA FERNANDEZ, SM

DEAR MARIST FRIENDS,

We live in the present but constantly look back at the past and forward to the future. In this month's EuroInfo, the parish community of Donore Ave, Dublin celebrates a century of faith and perseverance. In Liguria, northern Italy and in Toulon, people gathered to look forward in different ways. In Toulon, members of the Marist family met with an enthusiastic response when they tried to open the minds of young people to the possibility of a vocation to Marist religious life. In northern Italy, people were surprised at what they discovered the branches of the Marist family have in common. They have distinct identities but can talk about their hopes in a shared language.

Kevin Duffy, sm

PRAYER INTENTION

that the different branches of the Marist family will be faithful to their charisms

OBITUARY

James O'Connell
16.04.2026

100 YEARS OF ST THERESA CHURCH, DONORE AVENUE, DUBLIN

On the 16th May, St. Teresa's Church, Donore Avenue, marked a deeply moving chapter in its Centenary Year celebrations as parishioners, past and present, gathered in great numbers to give thanks for one hundred years of faith, community and service. The celebration Mass was led by Bishop Paul Dempsey, who presided over a joyful and prayerful liturgy filled with people whose ministries have shaped parish life across generations. This centenary Mass was celebrated 100 years to the day that the first Mass was celebrated here. There was something profoundly beautiful in witnessing so many familiar faces gathered together — people who have quietly and faithfully carried the life of the parish through decades of service. Readers, musicians, ministers, volunteers and parishioners stood as living reminders that a **church is built not simply from stone, but from lives given generously in faith.**

One particularly moving moment came as our first reader proclaimed the Word of God. At 97 years of age, she continues her ministry with grace and devotion, offering a powerful witness to a faith that does not diminish with age but deepens through a lifetime of fidelity. In her presence, we glimpsed something of the soul of St. Teresa's itself: steadfast, faithful and still giving. As we celebrated our past, we also recognised that the true legacy of a parish lies in hearts still willing to answer God's call in every generation. **A moment of appreciation was also given to the 45 years of service that the Marist Fathers have given to St. Teresa's.** We look forward to many more celebrations throughout the year, a parish fun day in July, a parish pilgrimage to the birthplace of St. Therese of Lisieux in September, a night of music and song in Nov, followed by The Irish Tenors concert to close out our centenary year in December. St. Therese, pray for us!



Sam Byrne, Parish Pastoral Director

MARIST FAMILY GATHERING IN ITALY



At the beginning of May (1–3), a Marist Family meeting was held in northern Italy (Liguria). Almost forty representatives of the Marist Family in Italy gathered for the occasion. On the evening of 1 May, there was a session for participants to introduce themselves, along with a presentation of the programme and objectives. The following morning, there were five short talks on how to live as Marists in today's world.

Speakers included Sr. Silvia Sanz (Marist Sisters), Fr. Larry Duffy (Marist Fathers), Br. Marco Ciancia (Marist Brothers), Laura De Alessi (Marist Layperson) and, via video link from Rwanda, Sr. Cristina Giustozzi (Superior General of the SMSM). These talks were followed by discussions and questions. In the afternoon, divided into groups, a symbolic activity took place: the construction of a 'Marist house', including plans for its furnishings. In a plenary session, the groups shared their work and the discussion continued. Sunday morning was devoted to developing some concrete ideas to promote unity and collaboration in the near future. The meeting concluded with the celebration of the Eucharist. The participants were struck by the common language and unity of spirit, whilst recognising the presence of a positive diversity. The meeting took place in an atmosphere of great joy and fraternity. It was needed – we are fragmented and dispersed.

Working together revealed that a common language exists amongst the branches of the Marist Family. This indicates that we share a common heritage. We didn't anticipate this, but such is the beauty and the unpredictability of life.

Faustino Ferrari, SM