



Nemi, 1 October 2025

Celebration of Perpetual Profession



Yesterday began with prayer and a Gospel reflection, followed by small group dialogue on the possible collaboration between units, shared in a spirit of fraternity and discernment.

The highlight of the day was the Perpetual Profession of six confreres: Jean Paul Dominique Dieme (Senegal), Lewis Kum Mvo and Joseph Arnaud Ondua (Cameroon), Peter Carde Matakara (Fiji), Lesley Kinani, and Leonard Wuiz Amora (Bougainville).

The Mass, celebrated with the wider Marist family, was presided by Fr. John Larsen, with Fr. Setefano preaching the homily. He evoked Elijah's cave, where God was revealed neither in the fire nor in the earthquake but in a gentle breeze—an image of the Marist journey in times of diminishment and uncertainty. Like Mary and the apostles at Pentecost, Marists are called to move beyond fear and trust the Spirit who renews and sends.

Fr. Setefano reminded the assembly that the heart of vocation is to “remain in Christ's love.” Vocation, he said, is not earned but received as a gift—“I have chosen you.” He highlighted the prophetic witness of the new perpetually professed, especially in the contexts of so many challenges. The homily closed with a call to step out of the cave, open the doors, and go forward, confident that the Spirit guides, Mary accompanies, and Christ both chooses and sends.

The celebration ended with a festive banquet and words of gratitude from one of the finally professed.

In the afternoon, the capitulants turned again to the work of the Chapter, discussing the future of La Neylière, reviewing the draft document of the “Mission Today” commission, and approving various texts of Legislation.

The Chapter now prepares for the important process of electing a new Superior General over the next two days.

