

Reflection from the Superior General

"With Mary at Pentecost" is the theme of our General Chapter to take place at Nemi, on the hills above Rome, this September 13 – October 5, 2025.

Mary at Pentecost invites us to remember all that is happening in our lives and mission in the light of the Paschal mystery of her Son. With Mary, we "ponder in our hearts" as we await the signs of the coming of the Holy Spirit. We are united as Marists, with all our friends and mission partners, "one in mind and heart". We discern how the Spirit is sending us out on mission. We search for the courage, creativity and competence to bring the Good News to the people around us, each "in his or her own language".



The synodal approach that we are proposing for our Chapter fits naturally in "the upper room". Two facilitators will guide our synodal path – Brother Joseph McKee fms and Ms. Frances Heery. They have worked with us at previous Marist gatherings and we are grateful to have them journey with us again.

Preparations for the Chapter are well under way, guided by our Pre-Capitular Committee. Individual Marists and communities are being involved in

discernment and discussion and the fruit of this work will be presented to the Chapter by the delegates.

After consultation we have also invited "observers" to journey with us over the Chapter.

- Ms. Serenia Madigibuli – Marist Training Centre, Tutu, Fiji
- Ms. Anne-Marie Salgo- Communications collaborator with the European Province.
- Mr. Saúl González Casado – Director, Franco-Inglés School, Mexico.
- Mr. Frank Dowling – Chair, Marist Education Authority, Europe.

These people have been partners with us on our Marist mission for many years and we are blessed that they have agreed to participate fully in all the discussions, if not the voting, for the first two weeks of the three-week Chapter.

We consulted the fourteen confreres involved in the specific "omnes gentes" mission-communities to propose who might best represent them and we have invited Father Donato Kivi, from our mission in Turkey, to attend the entire Chapter as an observer.

These observers will be introduced at the beginning of the Chapter and all the capitulants will be asked to welcome them as companions for our synodal journey.

As always, the Chapter will also discern and appoint a new Superior General and Council.

There will be some special occasions. We are scheduled for an audience with Pope Leo XIV on September 18. There will also be the celebration of the Perpetual Professions, on September 30, together with the Marist Family.

We are celebrating many milestones this year – the 150th anniversary of the death of our Venerable Founder, Father Jean-Claude Colin. It is 100 years since we opened our General House in Monteverde in Rome. We remember the Marist Brothers who will also be gathered in Chapter at almost the same time in the Philippines.

Let's be praying together, especially with our common prayer for the Chapter, "with Mary at Pentecost", that the Spirit will breathe new hope and energy into our Marist life and mission over these important weeks of Chapter and well into the future.

John Larsen s.m.