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Friday, 21 November 2025

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF FR COLIN

A group of approximately thirty Marists, priests, sisters, and lay people participated in the pilgrimage organised for the 150th anniversary of the death of Father Jean-Claude Colin. The group visited St Bonnet-le-Troncy, Fourvière, Cerdon, Belley and La Neylière. Presentations – which will soon be available online - were given at each site, linking the history of the places with Marist life today.

Students from Sainte Marie school, their families and teaching staff took part in the celebration of a Mass at the Basilica of Fourvière. Members of the Marist family, friends of La Neylière and even descendants of Father Colin's family shared a day of exchange and conviviality at La Neylière, which ended with the celebration of the Eucharist in memory of the approval of the Marist Constitutions written at La Neylière by the founder. Mgr. Le Gal, Auxiliary Bishop of Lyon, presided over the celebration.



MARIST MISSION WORKSHOP



On 5 November the 3rd edition of the Marist Mission Workshop began in Thailand. The three-week workshop is organized by Fr Larry Sabud, with the assistance of Fr Kevin Medilo and has thirteen participants coming from all branches of the Marist Family, including two RNDM Sisters. The goals of the Workshop are to deepen our understanding of mission, to clarify our mission spirituality, to experience through immersion what it means to dialogue with other faith traditions – specifically Buddhism and Islam, and to sustain participants in their commitment to the mission of the Trinity.

ORDINATIONS IN ROME AND IN NEW ZEALAND

On Saturday, 15 November, Lewis Kum Mvo (Af), Leonard Amora (O), Joseph Ondoua (Af), Peter Carde Matarakawa (O), Jean-Paul Dieme (Af) and Lesley Kinani (O) were ordained to the diaconate. The celebration took place in the church of Santa Francesca Cabrini, and was presided over by Bishop Antuan Ilgit, of the Apostolic Vicariate of Anatolia in Turkey. The festive celebration was attended by many confreres, parishioners, members of the Marist Family and friends. The six newly ordained will continue their studies in Rome this year, starting their first year of licentiate, while serving as deacons in the parish and elsewhere in the city.



Also on 15 November, in New Zealand, Fr Hemi Ropata was ordained to the priesthood. The celebration took place in St Benedict's Parish in Auckland, and was presided over by Bishop Stephen Lowe. Hemi comes from a Māori Anglican family, and following his vesting in priestly garments, he was honoured by his family, who placed upon him a treasured taonga; a korowai cloak, and offered waiata and haka in support of his new ministry as a priest of God in the Society of Mary. Hemi has been assigned to the Marist community in Napier .