

SMbulletin

Friday, 10 April 2026

FIRST PROFESSIONS AND THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW NOVITIATE



On 25 March six novices made their first profession in the Society of Mary in St Michael Archangel Quasi Parish in Eden, Davao, Philippines. They are Arnaud Elo Komi (Togo), Bernard Ngala (Cameroon), Brandon Nguia (Cameroon), Sylvestre Mbula (Democratic Republic of Congo), Thomas Manihera (New Zealand) and Pouono Ve'a (Tonga). The Superior General delegated Fr Kevin Medilo, District Superior of Asia, to receive their vows. The festive liturgy was presided over by Fr Merv Duffy, provincial of New Zealand, in the presence of the local bishop and of confreres,

members of the Marist Family and friends. The newly professed have arrived at Casa di Maria, getting familiar with life in Rome and learning the language while preparing for university studies starting in October.

On 28 March, after a two-month orientation program, the new novitiate started with the entry rite of admission of eight new novices: Dick, Didier, Emmanuel, Jordan, Joseph, Marcellin, Paulo and Pierre coming from Cameroon, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Togo and Vietnam. They are pictured at the right with their formators: Frs Xavier Sariman and Thilo Saft.



NOVENA FOR VOCATIONS



According to our Marist tradition, confreres worldwide are invited to pray a Novena for Vocations, leading up to the feast of St Peter Chanel on 28 April. The European province has prepared a leaflet inspired by the stained-glass windows of the main chapel at La Neylière. It is available in several languages and can be downloaded from the [European Website](#).

Also on other local Marists websites, prayer leaflets from previous years are available and may be helpful:

US: societyofmaryusa.org

Australia: maristfathers.org.au

New Zealand: sm.org.nz

We wish to encourage provinces and districts who have other material available, to share it with other units, so confreres can use it for their prayer and reflection.

“GRACE IN JEAN-CLAUDE COLIN”



Fr Tom Ryan (Australia) has completed a reflection on the person, spirituality and teachings of our Founder. His essay “Grace in Jean-Claude Colin: a pastoral perspective relevant today?” Tom wishes

to answer the question “in what way can the Society of Mary look to its Founder Jean Claude Colin as a guide about this (or any) aspect of its spirituality, or its culture?”, and suggests that the answer be centred on the word ‘grace’ – its presence and power in people’s lives and how this was a pastoral benchmark for Colin.

The essay is available online and can be downloaded from the Colin website, www.jeanclaudecolin.org.