

Declaration On The Mission of The Society Of Mary Today 2017 General Chapter

1. Jean-Claude Colin and the first Marists believed that Mary wanted a Society called after her, to act on her behalf in a world in crisis. This was the Mission she was entrusting to them, despite their limitations. This conviction inspired them to do great things for God in Mary's name and under her direction.
2. Since Mary is in the Church and not apart from it, the Mission she gives to her Society is an expression of the Mission that the Church receives from Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, whom the Father has sent into the world to bring about His reign.
3. Mary first called her Society to share in her work at a time of profound change in Europe (Const. 2 & 3). Today she calls us to bring the joy of the gospel, at a time of global change, to a world all too often scarred by fragmentation and by the degradation of the poor and the earth.
4. As Mary pondered the Word, so are we called to a life of contemplation, centered on the Eucharist, bearing fruit in service within the Church and beyond.
5. From our communities, where we care for our brothers as we care for all who are struggling to be faithful disciples, Mary, the mother of the New Creation, calls us to nurture life in all its forms, especially among our most vulnerable brothers and sisters and in our damaged planet.
6. Like Mary, we are called to be missionary disciples, bridge builders, instruments of reconciliation, bearers of the Good News, especially to the poor and youth.
7. Mission is not primarily about where we are or where we go. Rather it is an attitude of heart. "Mission" could be as simple as crossing the road. Mary's Work will not be finished until, at the end of time, all God's children are gathered together "one in heart and mind" (cf. Acts 4:32).
8. Specifically, we believe that Mary is directing us today to hear the urgent challenge of previous

superiors general, who stated boldly: "The status quo is not working."