



MARIST VOICES

WORLD MARIST LAITY COORDINATION

WMLC

I'm Marist

SUB MARIE NOMINE

MARIST LAITY

WITH MARY
WE
ADVANCE

ISSUE NO- 1- JULY 2020



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A TREE WITH MANY BRANCHES

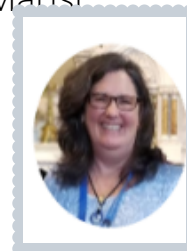
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I'm Marist

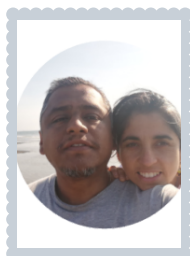
EDITORIAL

A team of four co-leaders were elected at the Dublin World Marist Laity conference in August 2019. We serve on your behalf to develop Marist Laity as an interdependent branch of the Society of Mary.

Please keep these co-leaders in your prayers:



Elizabeth Piper (Atlanta, USA) Elizabeth is married to Steve and they have a young adult family. She is working on Resources and Charism development. Elizabeth has assisted Marist Atlanta with quality Lay Marist publications and brings that gift to WMLC.

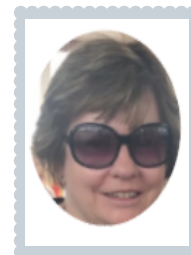


Jorge López (Toluca, Mexico) is married to Monica and they have three young children.

Jorge has taken responsibility for the Communication portfolio and this 'Marist Voices' is his work and initiative.

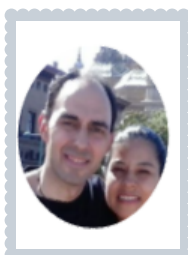
Bev McDonald (Auckland, New Zealand) is married to Stuart with an adult daughter and grandson. She is a Spiritual Director (ACNZ) who facilitates Marist Laity in New Zealand.

Bev presented on Laity to the 2017 Society of Mary General Chapter with Michel Macquet (France). She is responsible for Marist Family Liaison and is working on flexible WMLC infrastructures for identity and mission.



David Sanz de Diego (Madrid, Spain) is married to Rocío and is a professor of English in Madrid.

David was instrumental in the beginnings of the European Marist Laity Coordination (EMLC) with Michel Macquet and is now the leader of EMLC. He is working on ways to support Belonging, Community and Commitment.



WMLC is working to promote and support Marist Lay mission and identity.

OUR AIM IS TO ENSURE THE CALL AND WORK OF MARY AMONG LAY MARISTS IS SHARED, DEVELOPED AND NOURISHED IN CREATIVE AND FLEXIBLE WAYS THAT MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR TIME WHILE LAYING A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR OUR SHARED MARIST FAMILY MISSION OF MAKING CHRIST KNOWN AND LOVED. WE WANT TO:

- **be both hearers and doers of the Word** (Luke 8:21), nourishing our relationship with God and one another through prayer and present the Marian face of the Church.

- **do great things** for God alone, by living with Mary's simplicity, hope, confidence, faith, compassion, gentleness and trust in God, as disciples of Christ in the style of Mary.

- **honor** the spirit of Mary whose name we bear and give our generous **'yes'** to her leadership, developing her attributes and complete openness to the Holy Spirit.

- **work** in collaboration and co-responsibility with Marist Religious in continuity with the vision of Colin and faithful to the Marist legacy handed on and expressed within Marist Family Constitutions.

- **embrace** the prophetic call of Mary's Magnificat, reaching out in love and solidarity to those who feel far from God's love and mercy and saying "No" to greed, pride and power in ourselves and others.

- **promote** a practical way of living the Gospel and our Lay vocation by fostering a growing personal relationship with Jesus, Mary and Joseph in a way which encourages the faith of others and enables Laity to fully exercise our role and mission in the church and the world

- **be a support** to the Bishop of Rome and the mission of the Church; trying to heal division and build unity in all our actions, making the church a friendly 'Nazareth' welcoming to all

- **be truly missionary**, carrying the hidden presence of God, like Mary to Elizabeth, into every facet of life, working gently as instruments of God's mercy in daily life as we live the virtues.

- **avoid all discrimination**, try to understand each other across all boundaries and develop a desire to work and live in one mind and heart under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

- **maintain** mutual love and familial friendship with all members of the Marist family, working together in a spirit of respect, support, kindness, friendship, collaboration, equality and co-responsibility for Mary's mission.

MARIST VOICES PUBLICATION FLOWS FROM THESE AIMS AND OFFERS A WAY FOR ALL TO BE INVOLVED. IT WILL INCLUDE MARIST LIFE TESTIMONIES, REFLECTIONS AND RESOURCES, OPINIONS PIECES, NEWS FROM ALL REGIONS, QUESTIONS, CHILDREN AND FAMILY INPUT AND NOTICES OF EVENTS. OUR MARIST LEGACY FROM COLIN, CHAVOIN, CHAMPAGNAT, CHANEL, PERROTON AND THE PIONEERS IS HONORED BY EACH REPRESENTING A 'HOUSE' WHICH CAN GIVE SPACE TO THE WIDE RANGE OF MARIST VOICES TODAY. WE INVITE INPUT FROM ALL BRANCHES OF THE MARIST FAMILY SO PLEASE ENGAGE AND CONTRIBUTE FREELY TO SHARE THE WORK OF MARY IN OUR MIDST.

Bev McDonald, Co-Leader WMLC

MARISTS IN THE WORLD TODAY





WMLC - FROM LOS NEGRALES TO DUBLIN - DREAMS, CHALLENGUES, HOPES

Michel Macquet



The World Marist Laity Coordination was launched at Los Negrales (Spain) in August 2015, on the occasion of the III Meeting of the European Laity. There, representatives of all the Provinces came to get to know each other and to share the realities lived in each country, in a moment of great fraternity.

A pilgrimage to the Marist places followed.

The events of the past four years have been very unifying:

- The Ascent to Fourvière in 2016... on the occasion of the celebration of the bicentenary of the Promise of Fourvière,
- The preparation for and our participation in the General Chapter of the Society of Mary in September 2017
- The preparation and meeting in Dublin

The Chapter of the Society of Mary was truly marked by the recognition of the international laity by the Assembly of the Fathers

We expressed our difficulties, our expectations, our desire to work together on the basis of a collaboration that can be expressed in many situations. And we also expressed our desire to listen to what the Fathers had to tell us. For the first time, we presented the fruit of the reflections obtained from the lay representatives of each province present at Los Negrales and the members of their communities. It was a collective work.

The content of these documents reflected well the current state of the Marist laity and what animates us. These documents were a welcome addition.

At this Chapter, we shared three days entirely dedicated to the laity and exchanged widely on our identity, our vocation, on the accompaniment of the Society of Mary, on what we expect from the Fathers to support and share the mission.

Getting to know each other, communicating, creating opportunities to meet each other, taking time for dialogue, ... contributes to a better understanding of the difficulties sometimes encountered in the relationship between Fathers and laity and also how to overcome them. It is from this that actions can be put in place.

We then assured them of our availability to go further in the structuring of a laity working in partnership with the Society of Mary.

The work that followed was carried out without haste, but with energy, according to the possibilities of each person. In many cases, lay people share the mission or are present in a ministry. The laity can become involved in ongoing projects or take interesting initiatives that they can take charge of and carry out in their places of life.

The expressed wishes then:

That a meeting between the Fathers of the Provincial Council and lay delegates be planned quickly in each Province, with the following objectives:

- To initiate a dialogue between the laity and the Provincial Council,
- To survey existing lay groups or Marist associations,
- To identify possible forms of lay involvement in works which are or could be open to the laity (with the setting up of a working group if necessary)
- To take stock of what is happening in the formation of the laity, especially the leadership formation of future formators (participation, elaboration and planning).
- To designate a lay person responsible for "formation", the counterpart of a Marist Father in this area
- To initiate the elaboration of a Directory on the relations between Marist religious and Marist lay people.

The challenges to be taken up, for us laypeople, in connection with the General Administration

Communication: define in each Province, one or 2 possible actions to be carried out in partnership.

The **commitment** of the laity, (Two types)
the commitment of each Lay Marist, pronounced on the occasion of a Marist ceremony.
the commitment to an action, which requires trust and reliability.

The **participation** of the laity in the mission :

- "distant" mission: young retired couples, students of Marist establishments
- "Local" mission



Hopes, born of the Dublin meeting

The presence in Dublin of John Larsen, Superior General and Paul Walsh, Assistant Delegate for the Marist Laity (in this moment), testifies to the interest of the Society of Mary in the development of the international Marist laity.

Two years have passed since the Chapter; they have not been sterile, far from it. The proof of this is the energy and the will to act shown by the participants in the Dublin meeting.

In his intervention, John indicated what he and the Society of Mary saw as the direction to follow. The Fathers expect a lot from us now.

The themes addressed: mission, formation, commitment, communication... so many important subjects to share and on which we bring our response as Lay Marists. On these subjects, the delegations are not advancing at the same rhythm and that is quite normal. The differences are numerous: the culture, the language spoken, the distances between communities, the availability of the Fathers...but we are determined to act!

I make my own

- The need to make rapid progress in the field of formation in each Province...
- Commitment, which has a very strong link with training, which must be formal and pronounced in front of an organized and strong structuring of.
- The communication with the challenges related to new techniques, translations, selection of articles.
- The Directory which normalizes the relations between Marist laypeople and religious; the Directory published in Europe from 2013, should serve as an example.

I am relaying John's call to share the "Mission, where we are", but not only that. John invites us to study the problem of "mission abroad", to the poor. Mission to share... In this area we must move forward together...

As far as we are concerned, we must be vigilant, be attentive to vocations that come to us (from students, young retirees and others...) and, in short, remain in "battle clothes"....

Four years of WMLC coordination, after 8 years of EMLC coordination have been very rewarding for me. I have spared no time, but I can tell you that I have received a lot from all of you. I will continue in my vocation as a Lay Marist... It will be in Toulon, but also in the Trusteeship Council of the Marist establishments of France. Only my commitment changes.

Michel Macquet, December 2019.

CHANEL

Testimonies, Life, Mission



When initially invited to go to Ireland, despite working at Logos for almost 3 years, I found it hard to accept that I was ‘the best choice’ to represent Marist Lay in New Zealand.

However, this was a real experience of the words I've often heard "there is no them and us: we are all laity". It was both a wonderful invitation and a struggle to accept what it meant to say yes. Feeling recognition for my work at Logos and unpacking Isaiah “I have called you by name” with the Marist ladies as preparation, continues to be a strong emotional and positive part of this opportunity.



Before going to the conferences, I thought I had a pretty strong understanding of what a Marist lay person is. Intriguingly I now have more questions than answers or I quite like Fr Denis’ words “came back a bit stirred”.

Along the conference, it became clear that the identity of laity is fluid and changing. Questions were raised “can you be a Marist laity for a fixed amount of time?” “How does this fit into the vision of John Claude, to make the whole world Marist?” “if the whole world is Marist then is anybody Marist or are some people more Marist than others?” If the call comes from Mary, then indeed, someone can be called for a short amount of time or a specific purpose, then there are others who want to make a more permanent commitment to live their lives conscious of Mary’s call. However, since we recognize it is from Mary, how can we then set the commitment or the specifics of that commitment? Should each person called then set their own commitment? There seemed to be a variety of ‘yes, but’ or “yes, and” or “yes, both”. But at least the consensus was a ‘yes.’

Penelope Van Der Lee, New Zealand

Please visit the next link to enjoy the complete article

<http://maristlaitynz.org/index.php?URL=LayMaristsBridgeDividesWithJoy&j=0&orderingby=date>

CHANEL

It was incredible to know too many brothers and sisters who share the same Marist spirituality and the different languages doesn't were an obstacle to meet and experiment moments of a weird fraternity and interchange of ideas.

We had several experiences communicated in the gathering as emergent Spirituality in light of our cosmic history, bringing the Mary of the Scriptures to our world. Some group reflections about the experiences and realities. How do we live our Marist call ? Discern together ways for the Marist walk with confidence to the future.

Lucelia & Marcos, Brazil



All the logistics, the work that this gathering requires; the testimony of each delegation during the moments of sharing and reflection at the Emmaus Retreat Center. The joy of life of the Irish "grannies" who testified to their faith in deeds. The very good organization which alternated between working days and outings, visits to historical and religious sites. The themes addressed at An Grianan by the speakers; Gemma's testimony during her visits with her children to the prisoners.

In spite of the language barrier, we still managed to exchange and dialogue. The climate of Dublin reminded us of that of Oceania, in particular that of New Caledonia. The hospitality and welcome of this Irish community



Likarika & Pierre,
New Caledonia



COLIN

Formation, reflections

15 Days of prayer with Jean-Claude Colin with companion workbook

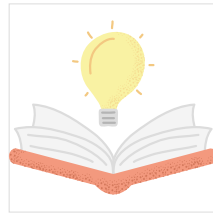
Whether you read for personal meditation or as part of a small group study you will love going on a spiritual journey with Father Jean-Claude Colin. We begin our journey with a brief historical overview of Father Colin's life that sets the stage. Each chapter lays the foundation where we connect to God, reflect on the spiritual attitudes, receive the call to action then go out into the world to bring to others. Reflection questions at the end of each chapter offer challenges to go deeper into reflection and prayer which are perfect for you or your small group to discuss.

The companion workbook for home discussion groups offers a guided evening beginning in prayer and scripture reflection based on the theme of each chapter. There is room to journal during discussion or preparation. Offering music for meditation and a closing prayer for the evening. This companion workbook connects the Society of Mary values to our life in the world today.

COLIN

Formation, reflections

How to use:



Daily Meditation- read a chapter a day over 15 days

Weekly Meditation or Group Reflection- read a chapter each week answering the questions at the end of each chapter. Discuss with your small group.

Monthly Small Group Reflection - Each month read one chapter of the book and prepare reflection in the companion workbook. Use questions as discussion points for small group reflection.

Enjoy your journey guided by Father Colin Lord, catch me off guard today. Surprise me with some moment of beauty or pain So that at least for the moment, I may be startled into seeing that you are here in all your splendor, always and everywhere, barely hidden, beneath, beyond within life I breathe.

By Frederick Buechner

Tasting God



Chapter 1

Let the Marists always bear in mind that they belong by a gracious choice to the family of the blessed Mary, Mother of God, from whose name they are called Marists, and whom they have chosen from the beginning as their model and their first and perpetual superior, If therefore they are and desire to be true sons of this dear Mother, let them try constantly to breathe her spirit: a spirit of humility, self -denial, intimate union with God, and the most ardent love of neighbor, So they must think as Mary, judge as Mary, feel and act as Mary in all things.

(CONSTITUTIONS OF THE SOCIETY OF MARY, 1988, PARAGRAPH 228)

A Reading from the Book of Genesis 12:1-9

Abram's Call and Migration. **1** The Lord said to Abram: Go forth from your land, your relatives, and from your father's house to a land that I will show you. **2** I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. **3** I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the families of the earth will find blessing in you.

4 Abram went as the Lord directed him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. **5** Abram took his wife

Sarai, his brother's son Lot, all the possessions that they had accumulated, and the persons they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, **6** Abram passed through the land as far as the sacred place at Shechem, by the oak of Moreh. The Canaanites were then in the land.

7 The Lord appeared to Abram and said: To your descendants I will give this land. So Abram built an altar there to the Lord who had appeared to him. **8** From there he moved on to the hill country east of Bethel, pitching his tent with Bethel to the west and Ai to the east. He built an altar there to the Lord and invoked the Lord by name. **9** Then Abram journeyed on by stage to the Negeb.

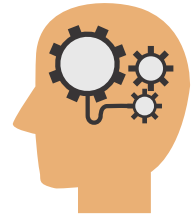
REFLECTION ON THE READING

Today we hear the Call of Abram and his response to this call. As we reflect on this reading we see Abram “tastes” God along with his response. When reading this scripture we tend to focus on the story of Abram’s call without thinking about the time between each moment.

What about this time? This 75 year old man gathered his family and all of their possessions along with his nephew Lot. **How much time do you think passed from God’s first call till he spoke again to Abram in the land of Canaan?**

This “taste” of God sustained him throughout all this time.

REFLECTION ON CHAPTER 1 TASTING GOD



Please take a few minutes before we gather to reflect on these questions. The space below provides room for you to journal your thoughts or take notes while we are together.

Can you remember “tasting “ God in the past?

What were the circumstances? Liturgy? Some other sacrament? Private prayer? Encountering another person? Reading?

What would be the best actions and attitudes at the present time to prepare you to “taste” God?

While not necessarily committing yourself to do more or pray more, **what changes or improvements can you adopt in your present life to allow God to come in and for you to “taste” God?**

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION



Taste and See

<https://youtu.be/Y8H5Nd78-tU>



CLOSING PRAYER

Keep my soul in peace,
Your law, O Lord, is my delight,
I take my rest in you, O Lord.
Yes, when we have tasted God, truly, we keep going
back to him.
Amen



MEDICAL CAMPAIGNES - OCTUBRE 2019

The Marist laypeople carried out two medical campaigns in 2019, on October 5th, in the town called « La Peñita » and on October 19th in the hamlet of “Miraflores”, with the goal of bringing medical care and vaccination (hepatitis e influenza) to 90 low-income settlers; 40 at La Peñita and 50 at Miraflores. At the same time, thanks to the donations received by the Marist fathers from Callao-Perú, there is now a stock of medicines, the same that are distributed to the residents through a prescription.



MARIST YOUTH DAY « CALLED TO SERVE »

The Marist laypeople of Sullana, with the support of the Marist fathers from Callao, celebrated on October 13th “Marist Youth Day” under the theme « Called to serve », in the Marist house of Sullana, from 8 :30 to 4 :00 pm. With the presence of 39 young people, the Marists shared their vocational testimonies (marriage, celibacy, consecrated life), as they sought the transmit the message of the vocation lived in each state of life and how we can serve to God through each.



It is important to point out that, with the young people who attended the day, a Young Marists laity group has been formed, which will seek to accompany them in their spiritual and personal formation and to help more young people through their testimony.

PERROTON

News

B R A Z I L

VII NATIONAL GATHERING OF MARIST LAY

On January 9th and 12th, the Marist lay people celebrated the Seventh National Gathering in Belo Horizonte (Brazil), with the theme « Marist Lay people : Identity and mission ». The event gathered 52 participants from 5 Brazilian states.

Besides the Marist lay people, the Marist Fathers and Marist Sisters also participated.

Nowadays, Brazil has more than 120 lay people distributed in 9 groups. Beth, a Marist lay, from Curitiba/Paraná, shared her testimony: “To participate in the VII National Gathering was very important for me, since the knowledge and experience with the Marists really increased and strengthened my journey of faith. We had many study moments about the role of the lay people in the Church. Moments of pray, celebration with the Marists priests and exchange of experiences with the older groups and those who are forming now in Belo Horizonte. The culture of each part of Brazil was shared by each group through their cooking, dances, music and lots of joy. It was a strong moment of union in the spirituality of the Company of Mary. Thank you all !!



MÉXICO

VI MEETING OF MARIST LAY



In mid-February we celebrated our 6th Marist Lay meeting, with an attendance of just over 80 people, most of them young people! After some years of studying different papal documents, on this occasion we returned to our origins, and so we based our session on the document for Formation in Marist spirituality for the laity from France. We enjoyed meditating «The call, the promise, the interiority and the mission», we greatly enjoyed sharing and we leave with a renewed heart. Praise The Lord!



CHAVOIN

Prays, intentions



IN MEMORIAM

F. Etienne Pitiot
1944 -2020

Born on January 10, 1944 in Doizieu (Loire), Brother Etienne spent most of his life in New Caledonia, where he joined his older brother Georges at the end of 1970. His training with the Brothers Marists took place in La Valla (youth), Lacabane (novitiate), L'Hermitage (scholasticate) and Cassel in the North (technical studies).

After his military service in Lyon from November 1967 to February 1969, he did a factory internship for a few months in Saint-Chamond (Loire), before being appointed educator-supervisor in St Genest-Malifaux (Loire), where he looked after college students from "problem families".

His first ten years in New Caledonia took place at the Ecole Technique Champagnat, in Païta, where he did a bit of everything: teacher, supervisor, truck driver and even director from 1976 to 1978. After a long spiritual retraining and professional in Rome and in France, the Brothers entrusted him with the ministry of vocations and Mgr Calvet entrusted him with the youth ministry. Launch of the Group of Young Christians with their first large gathering in Païta. As such, he was one of the founding members of the Marche pour Notre-Dame Committee, responsible for organizing the annual Téné rally.

From 1993 to 2009, he was an educator at the Foyer Saint-Léon, in Païta, which had around sixty students, many of whom came from Vanuatu. To support them he founded in 2004 an Association "Aid to Vanuatu high school students", of which he was the first president.

Forced to retire, he returned to France with regret, but he kept many links with the Caillou via the internet. For 5 years he was responsible for the Brothers' retirement home in Beaucamps (North), before returning to the Lyon region. In June 2019, he was admitted to the nursing home of St Genis-Laval (Rhône), where he died suddenly on March 26, victim of the coronavirus pandemic. His funeral took place on March 31 in the strictest privacy, confinement requires.

Etienne, rest in peace. Caledonia does not forget you!

P. François

Source: Provincial Secretariat of the Marist Brothers in Lyon.



CHAVOIN

Prays, intentions

Br. Georges Pitiot
1939 -2020

IN MEMORIAM

Eight days after his brother Etienne, Br Georges died like him from coronavirus in the same nursing home Marcellin Champagnat, in St Genis-Laval (Rhône), where he had been admitted in May 2015, suffering from Alzheimer's disease, and where his brother had joined him in October 2019. Their deeply Christian family was a breeding ground for vocations since they gave the Church, among their cousins and cousins, a priest and five religious.

His training path also led him to La Valla (youth), Lacabane (novitiate) and the Hermitage (scholasticate). Before being sent on a mission to New Caledonia, he spent a professional year at the La Valla juniorate as supervisor and teacher, two years of cooperation in Saïda, Lebanon, in 61-63, and a brief stay in Saint-Just- en-Chevalet (Loire).

Arrived in Noumea in March 1964, he spent two years at the Sacré-Coeur school, while working at the college Champagnat which had just opened. From 1966 to 1968 he was director of the Sainte-Thérèse juvenile in Port-Laguerre, Païta. He then went to France to learn about the pedagogy of transition classes. On his return in 1970, he returned to Païta until 1994, but with various responsibilities: professor, then director of the Sainte-Marie college, educator at the Foyer Saint-Léon, District Visitor. He likes to enhance the Saint-Léon property and plant trees there.

From 1994 to 2009, he worked in Vanuatu: 10 years first at the Saint-Michel school in Santo, then 5 years at the Saint Martin de Porrès apostolic school in Lololima, an isolated place at the bottom of the property of Montmartre, which he greatly appreciates. He sent his best students to Païta to continue their studies with the support of the Marist Brothers.

When retirement time struck in 2010, he returned to Païta and rendered the services his health allowed him before making the decision to return to France. He retired first to Saint Paul-Trois-Châteaux, then he was admitted to Saint Genis-Laval, where he died on April 4, at the age of 80, after 62 years of religious life. May he rest in the peace of the Lord.

Source: Secretariat of the Marist Brothers at St Genis-Laval

CHAVOIN

Prays, intentions

IN MEMORIAM

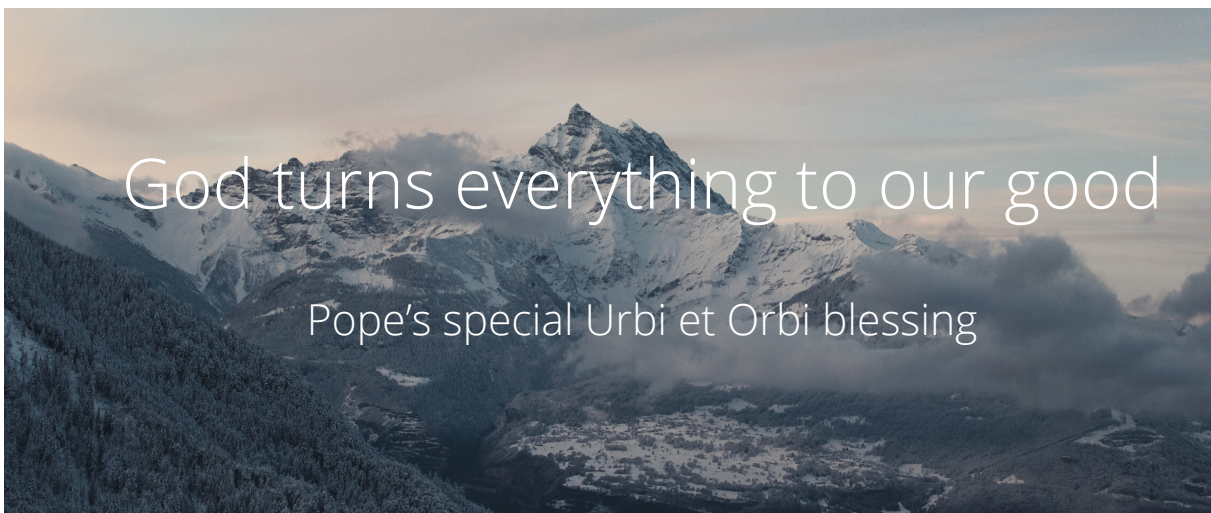


Fr Paul Loubaresse.
1942-2020

He was a member of the community of La Neylière, France.

He had spent seven years as a missionary in Brazil

He was buried in the cemetery of nearby Pomeys, next to the grave of pioneer Marists, including Fr Etienne Déclas, early mission companion of Marist Founder, Jean-Claude Colin. May he rest in peace



Brother Pablo, Paul as we all told him, was born in Las Peruleras, Santa Rosalía in the municipality of Ayutla, Jalisco, one hundred years after the martyrdom of San Pedro Chanel, on April 28, 1941, son of José Trinidad López and María Felicidad Pelayo, in a large and very religious, farmer family. He joined the Society of Mary as a brother candidate in 1959 at the age of 18. He made his novitiate in Toluquilla where he professed on November 8, 1964. His perpetual profession took place three years later in La Jordana in the presence of the Marists Priests Martín Pérez and José Luis Chanfón. After spending two years in the Martín Carrera community, he was appointed in 1969 to the Colegio Franco Inglés where with dedication and fidelity he served for 50 years. At the beginning of this year 2020 he was named to La Jordana community.

He died in Mexico City last Sunday, June 21 at the age of 79 after having lived exemplary with diabetes for more than 30 years.

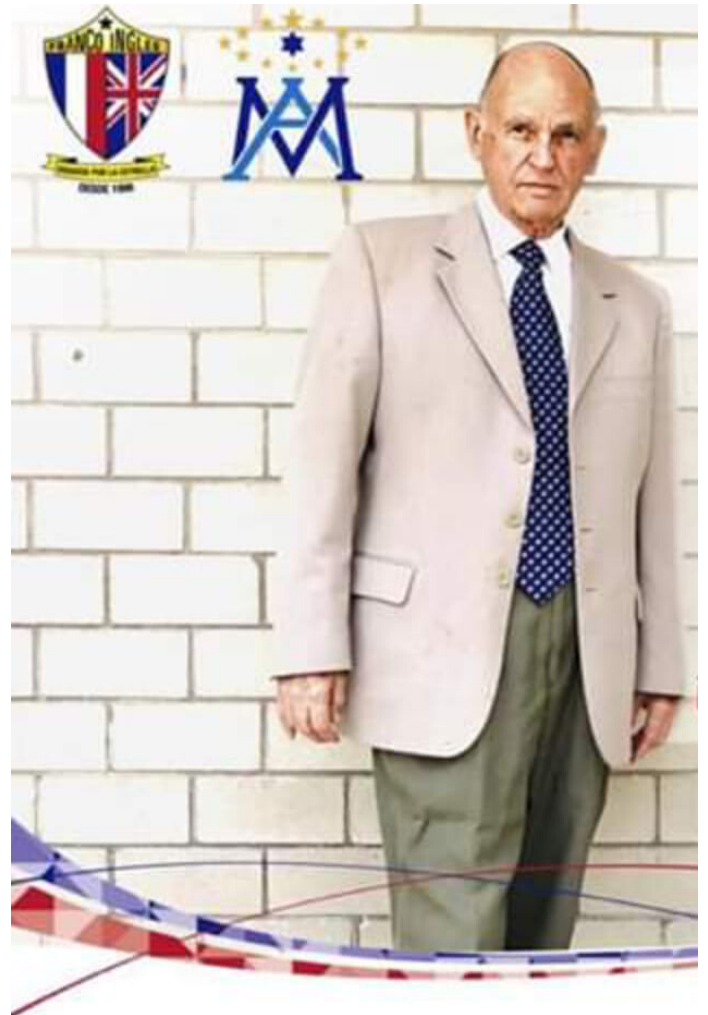
Paul incarnated in a pristine way the Marist charism, a man of God, of profound simplicity, helpful, dedicated to the entrusted work. His almost hidden presence was always very effective in inspiring children and the entire educational community, whether as a librarian or as an administrator. He studied accounting, first private and then public, as well as mathematics. He took great care of the province's heritage, he was also a provincial councilor, where he distinguished himself by caring for people.

With the sensible loss of Paul, we also lose the last of the "coadjutor" brothers in the Mexican Province. Jan Hulshof said, in his time as superior general, that the presence of the brothers is essential to our branch in the Marist Family. They are custodians of fraternal life in communities, they remind us that we are all brothers, they are prophets. With Marcelino today we could shout "Brothers are needed", ... and an echo of the heart will add "we will miss you very much Paul".

CHAVOIN

Prays, intentions

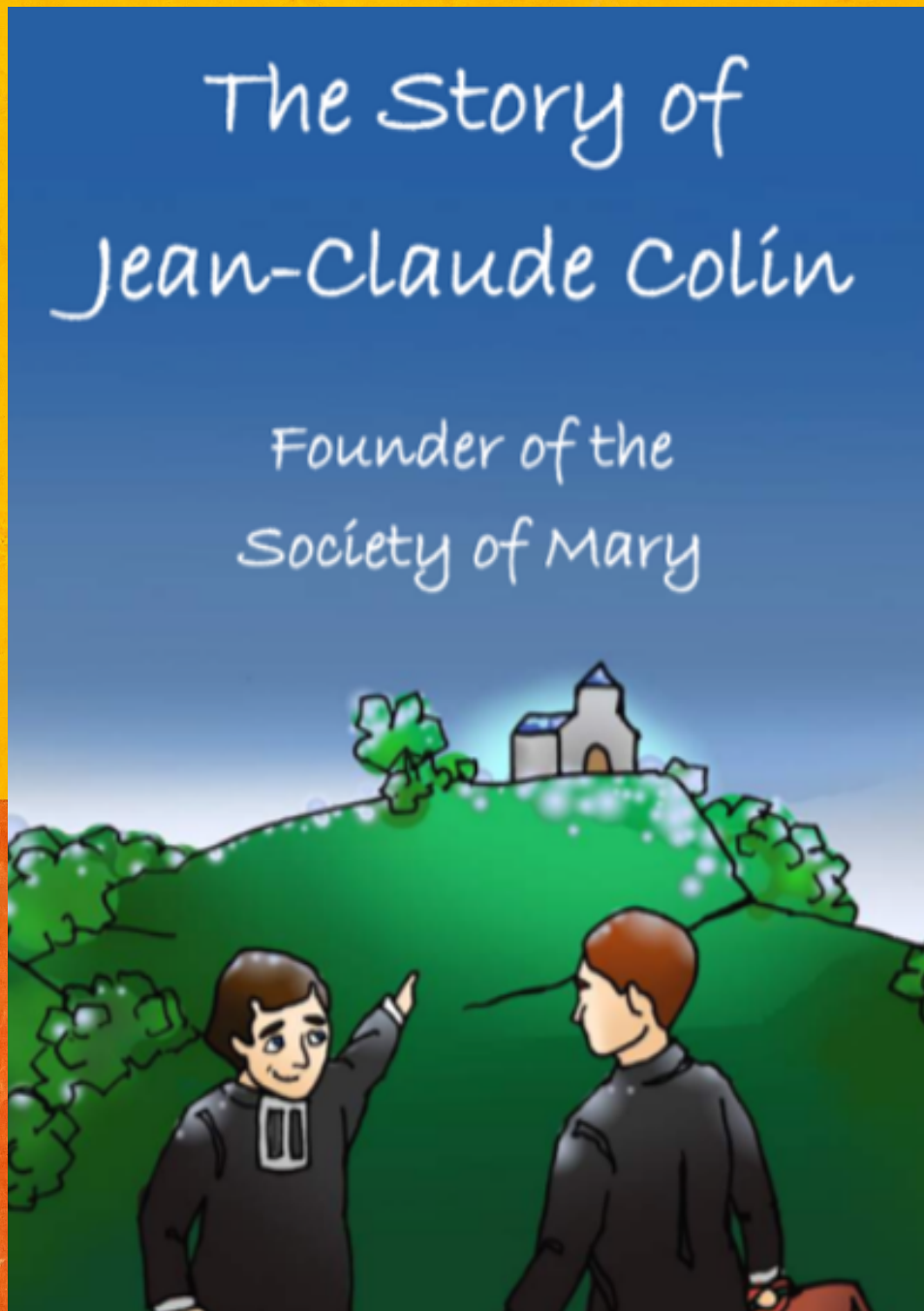
IN MEMORIAM



Br. Pablo López Pelayo
1941-2020

CHAMPAGNAT

Kids, comics



Jean-Claude Colin was born in
a small village in France.

He had seven older brothers
and sisters.

His family house was near a
forest in the hills.



Because of troubles between the Church and
the government Jean-Claude's father used to
help the parish priest hide from angry
government officials.

They would sometimes go into the forest to
hide. Before Jean-Claude turned five both his
parents became very sick and died, so his
kind uncle began to look after him and his
brothers and sisters.

Jean-Claude moved to the nearby village to live in his uncle's house, quite close to the parish church. Even though he was a shy boy Jean-Claude loved to help the priest at Mass.

At other times he would spend quiet time alone in the forest.



When he was fourteen Jean-Claude went away to boarding school.

Most of the boys there were planning to become priests. Jean-Claude wondered whether he would be one, too.

He went to two other high schools in the following years. He was a very good student but sometimes got quite sick.



A TREE WITH MANY BRANCHES

Conference of Fr. John Larsen, General Superior, to the Marist Lays in Dublin 2019. (excerpt)

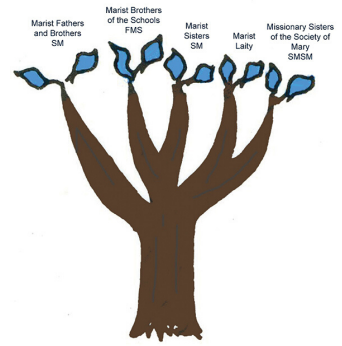
IN WRITING THIS PAPER I HAVE REJOICED IN THE FACT THAT THE LAY MARIST VOCATION HAS SO MANY EXPRESSIONS AND FORMS. THIS IS A BLESSING.

HOWEVER, IT IS ALSO A DANGER. THE LAY MARIST VOCATION CAN BE SO PLURIFORM THAT IT REALLY HAS NO FORM AT ALL. I AM PROPOSING THAT THE LAY MARISTS GATHERED DURING THESE DAYS IN IRELAND NEED TO CLARIFY THE SPECIFIC FORM OF YOUR VOCATION- IT IS A PARTICULAR "CALL" IN THE CHURCH, IT HAS A SPECIAL FORM OF COMMITMENT THAT YOU NEED TO DEVELOP, AND IT HAS A COMMUNAL, ECCLESIAL CONTEXT THAT NEEDS TO BE CLEARER. ALL OF THIS IS EXPRESSED IN A CHALLENGING MISSIONARY EXPRESSION TO SERVE THOSE ON THE MARGINS - THE POOR, THE YOUTH AND THE MIGRANT. WE NEED STRUCTURES TO HELP THIS TO HAPPEN. THESE STRUCTURES WILL INCLUDE CLEAR LEADERSHIP - BOTH INTERNATIONALLY AND LOCALLY - CLEAR FORMATION AND TRANSPARENT AND ROBUST FINANCIAL BASES. THERE IS MUCH WORK OF DISCERNMENT TO UNDERTAKE OVER THESE DAYS OF GATHERING OF SO MANY GENEROUS COMMITTED LAY MARISTS HERE IN IRELAND RIGHT NOW.

THESE CHALLENGES ONLY MAKE SENSE FROM A DEEP SENSE OF FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE. THE HEART OF THE MATTER IS THE "HANDMAID OF THE LORD" WHO WAS TOTALLY OPEN TO THE SPIRIT AND MADE HER COMMITMENT TO THE LORD IN NAZARETH.

SHE WENT OUT INTO MISSION IN THE HILL-COUNTRY OF JUDEA TO HELP HER COUSIN. SHE GAVE FLESH TO THE WORD WHO, IN TURN, BROUGHT GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR. SHE SUPPORTED HER SON, OFTEN UNSURE OF WHERE HE WAS GOING AND WHAT HE WAS UP TO. SHE STOOD - FIRMLY, QUIETLY, SADLY - AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS WHEN ALL SEEMED TO BE LOST. AFTER THE RESURRECTION SHE WAS AGAIN OPEN TO THE OUTPOURING OF THE SPIRIT AND SUPPORTED THE CHURCH AS THE WOUNDED, FRAGMENTED COMMUNITY TRIED TO FIND A VOICE IN A HOSTILE WORLD.

A TREE WITH MANY BRANCHES



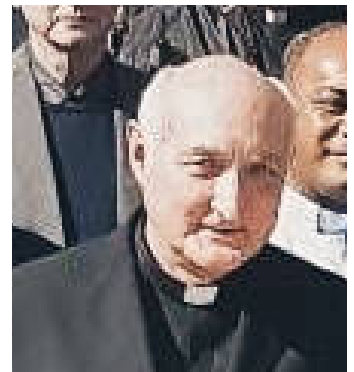
PERHAPS I HAVE SPOKEN “OUT OF TURN”. I AM THE LEADER OF ONLY ONE BRANCH OF THE SOCIETY OF MARY, THAT OF THE PRIESTS AND BROTHERS. I AM SUGGESTING THAT LAY MARISTS ARE ANOTHER BRANCH, INDEPENDENT BUT WITHIN THE ONE FAMILY. WHO THEN AM I THEN TO BE SUGGESTING TO YOU WHAT YOU MIGHT BE DOING INTO THE FUTURE? WELL, IF I HAVE OVER-STEPPED THE MARK PLEASE UNDERSTAND MY WORDS AS MY POOR ATTEMPT TO EXPRESS MY PROFOUND EXCITEMENT AT BEING CALLED TO BE A MARIST – IT IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL VOCATION – AND IN SEEING NEW AND HOPEFUL WAYS OF WALKING TOGETHER WITH OUR SISTER AND BROTHER LAY MARISTS INTO THE FUTURE. WE MAY BE INDEPENDENT ADULT MEMBERS OF ONE FAMILY. BUT WE ARE UNITED IN DEEP BONDS OF FAMILY LOVE. SOMETIMES A BIT OF PLAIN TALKING “ALL WITHIN THE FAMILY” DOESN’T DO ANY HARM!

ONLY WHEN WE WALK WITH MARY, IN THE HEART OF THE CHURCH, FULL OF FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE, WILL ALL THE SUGGESTIONS OF THIS PAPER – AND ALL THE OTHER GOOD SUGGESTIONS OF THIS GATHERING OF LAY MARISTS IN IRELAND

– BEAR ANY FRUIT.

AT THE END OF THE DAY IT IS MARY’S WORK AND WE ARE DELIGHTED TO BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.

WE NEED TO MAKE THE BOLD PRACTICAL DECISIONS THAT ARE CONSEQUENT UPON OUR MARIST VOCATION TO SHARE IN MARY’S LIFE AND WORK IN OUR WORLD TODAY. ONLY IN THIS WAY, I BELIEVE, CAN MARISTS WALK CONFIDENTLY INTO THE FUTURE.



I'm Marist

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