

SMbulletin

Friday, 7 July 2023

COLINIAN RENEWAL PROGRAM



The Colinian Renewal concluded on 29 June with the renewal of vows before the Superior General in the chapel of the Blessed Virgin at Fourvière, bringing to a conclusion the five and a half months of reflection, prayer, sharing, and study. The fraternal bonds that were forged during the Renewal are a testament to the wholehearted commitment of each participant to the program and the international character of the

Society. Among the many highlights were the visits to Marist places of origin, inputs from many confreres, the 30-day Ignatian style retreat at Nemi, the 'Bugey Camino' with the Superior General, and concelebrating at the Eucharist in Belley on the occasion of the bicentennial celebration of the diocese. Walking through the Bugey mountains in the footsteps of Colin, Decals, Jallon and other confreres was particularly special. In addition, Fr John Larsen's presence and inputs on Marist mission were inspiring. All who participated – co-directors and participants – have reflected on the experience as a special and uplifting event in their lives as Marists. For those considering the program in the future, it is highly recommended! (Fr Ray Chapman, Director of the program).

"I came to this renewal with mixed feelings. This Colinian renewal program helped me a lot to deal with these feelings, it encourages me to look at myself and other people differently, to accept and love them as they are. It renews my ways of looking at others, more with kindness and always have a positive attitude toward the others."

"The Colinian Renewal is a personal time of grace to know Ven. Jean Claude Colin better and understand better the spirit of the Society. It is also a prayerful opportunity to look back with gratitude how I lived my Marist life, envisage my future with greater commitment to the Spirit of the Society and conceive a renewed enthusiasm to participate in the mission of the Church entrusted to Mary's Society."

"The Renewal was excellent, having a great impact both for my personal insights and connecting these with the mission of the Society. It has been an opportunity to shape my personal life towards the mission and life of the Society."

"With gratefulness, I look at this Colinian Renewal as a time of grace, challenge and opportunity, after having lived and walked in the land trodden by our founder and pioneers. Having deepened their legacy and vision I cherish, I return happy to my journey with new companions."

"The Colinian Renewal has given me a far deeper appreciation of our founder. His focus on God's mercy is as relevant today as it was in the 19th century."

"The Colinian Renewal has been a powerful time of rekindling the Marist's spirit in myself. It has been a remarkable experience that permits me to once again walk much more closely with Fr. Colin in Mary's way."

"The Colinian Renewal was a grace filled moment for me. It broadened my knowledge and also strengthened my life as a Marist. This renewal also re-echoes the mission of the society in the modern world today."

"The Colinian Renewal for me personally was a journey of the heart - being drawn into a breathing space where the new has been welcomed and the old farewelled. It was a moment spent on listening attentively to my vocation as a Marist and allowing the spirit to be filled; to grow and regain my energy back for the ongoing work of Mary."