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Dear Friends

Computers are marvelous things but once the gremlins manage to invade the workings life can become rather difficult. Gremlins entered my computer with a vengeance and I suffered all sorts of difficulties. Among others things I found it impossible to send out the Newsletter by Email and so I have been 'out of contact' for quite some time. I hope that most of these problems have now been resolved and that this Newsletter will be with you shortly.

2014 could well be a year of great change for the Marist Way. Nobody is getting any younger and new members are very rare. In the Province of Europe the Marist Fathers established a committee to look at the role of the Marist Laity and they have prepared a rather long document considering many, if not all, aspects of the role of the Marist Laity in conjunction with the Marists. The title is "Directory for the relations between Religious and Lay Marists". An Email copy of this document could be sent to each group for comment and observation. This would mean that we had an Email contact for each group. *"In our relations with lay people, instead of clinging to what belongs specifically to either side, we need first of all to be attentive to what unites us. Through our diverse forms of life and our different responsibilities we open our hearts to a common vocation, as we are all called to the one same holiness to be pursued by all whom the Spirit of God is leading. (Lumen Gentium, 39-42)*

YOUR CHARITABLE PRAYERS Are requested for the repose of Fr Paul Sacco SM who was buried in Middlesbrough 2nd December. Paul was 94 years old and had enjoyed good health until the final months and had worked in many Marist parishes and schools. May he rest in peace. Amen

MARIST PILGRIMAGES Every so often the rules and regulations concerning group travel change and new regulations have to be observed. The new "in" word is 'paper trail' by which responsibility can be traced. Hence this year our booking procedures will have to be changed and the 'paper trail' must be correct. At the moment I am working on the booking forms and making sure that we comply with the regulations. This has taken rather longer than anticipated but has not prevented me from planning pilgrimages for 2014.

37th MARIST LOURDES PILGRIMAGE Saturday 24th / 31st May. Travel by coach and ferry. Includes 5 nights full board accommodation plus one extra meal; ensuite twin bedded rooms; travel insurance. Approximate cost: Hotel Esplanade £410.00; Hotel Padoue £550.00.

At the beginning of September an interesting 'Holy Holiday' during which we will stop one night in Reims, four nights in Lyon, when we will be able to visit the city itself, some places of Marist interest and Ars and Chatillon-sur-Chalaronne, where St Vincent de Paul worked. On our journey north we would stay in Lisieux for two nights and follow in the footsteps of St Therese. Details have to be finalised but we will be using the P.O. Dover / Calais ferry.

I would hope to have both booking forms available by next month.

Marist Liturgical Calendar and Mass Intentions 2014

Date	Feast or Celebration	Mass Intention
10 th Jan	1836 Oceania Mission entrusted to SM	Society of Mary
24 th Jan	St Francis de Sales	
28 th Jan	St Thomas Aquinas	

M. Coleman SM, Marist Way Regional Animator

REFLECTION

Happy are those who are poor in spirit
whose heart freely gives and receives,
who say with Mary: "Be it done unto me."
Theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy are those who are gentle,
whose concern brings comfort, whose
touch, healing,
whose manner says: "The Lord is with
you!"
They will inherit the earth.

Happy are those who mourn with the
mourning,
who reach out to the suffering, the
oppressed,
who stand with Mary near the cross of her
Lord,
in His cross they will be comforted.

Happy are those who thirst for what is
right,
who use mind and heart for the Kingdom,

though persecuted in the cause of what is
just,
with living waters they will be filled.
Theirs is the Kingdom of God.

Happy are the merciful, the peacemaker,
who forgive and accept the other,
who heal the wounded, reconcile the
broken,
feeling oneness with sinful humanity,
mercy will be shown to them.

Happy are those, pure in heart,
transparent,
who pray, "Your name is oil poured out...
in your footsteps, draw me. Let us run..
you are my joy and my gladness!"
Yes, they will see God.