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Dear Friends

It has been a long time since the last Newsletter. Bad weather, travel, house searching and a winter cold, which was doing the rounds, all occupied time. I was in Lourdes for the meeting in February and the next week in Paris for a Provincial finance meeting. A large tree blew down during one of the winter storms, which disturbed the peace of Oldcotes and made us reflect as to where to park cars in future!! The next few weeks are going to be hectic. Hence I must send out this Newsletter.



SWANWICK CONFERENCE Friday 12th until Sunday 14th April 2013. Eileen McCann from Ireland, who is very committed to the Marist Way, will be the keynote speaker. Her theme will be: "A Marist response to Vatican II". This will be a very worthwhile weekend and is a great opportunity to meet together and discuss things 'Marist'. Accommodation will be limited. Booking forms are now available and the cost, because of the economy and as an encouragement to members, will be the same as in 2010 - £150.00. Keep this weekend free.

YOUR CHARITABLE PRAYERS Are requested for the repose of Margaret Newdick, Middlesbrough, who faithfully distributed the Newsletter in her parish. May she, and other members of the Marist Way, who have died recently, rest in peace. Amen

MARIST LOURDES PILGRIMAGE Saturday 25th May / 1st June. Travel by coach and ferry. Hotel Esplanade £400.00, Hotel Padoue £530.00. Travel insurance included. Booking forms are now available.

Marist Liturgical Calendar and Mass Intentions 2013

Date	Feast or Celebration	Mass Intention
24 th Mar	Palm Sunday. Beginning of Holy Week	
31 st Mar	Easter Sunday. The Resurrection	
8 th Apil	Annunciation of the Lord	

M. Coleman SM, Marist Way Regional Animator

YEAR OF THE FOUNDER

The year dedicated to our Founder began on Thursday, 15 November, the anniversary of his death. In his message announcing the event, the Superior General expressed the hope that by developing a real devotion to his person and deepening our grasp of the teachings and values of Fr Colin, the Society may respond wholeheartedly to the work of renewal and re-foundation. A new Colin website jeanclaudecolin.org was launched on the 15 Nov. It has been carefully prepared mainly by Fr Ron Nissen (Australia) with help from others.

Start with the Colin Year prayer:

“God our Father, in the joy of the Spirit we give you thanks for Jean-Claude Colin, our founder. By a gracious choice we have been called to share in that life and mission he strove to implant in the Church. Desiring to live in fidelity to the spirit of Mary and the charism that he left us, we pray for the renewal of ‘this little Society’ and the conversion of heart that it requires. We pray also for Fr Colin’s beatification if that be your will. This we ask through Christ our Lord and the intercession of Mary, our first and perpetual superior. Amen.”

Read the week’s quote

Week 17: Gentlemen, it does not rain all the time: when the garden is dry, the gardener draws up water by hand from the well and waters the plants. That is how he makes them grow. And yet you expect God to open all his graces to you every morning without your doing anything to receive them. I tell you he will not do it, he even ought not to. I would go so far as to say that he owes it to his own glory not to. Man must come to feel his emptiness, his weakness, his nothingness, his dryness... and otherwise he would not.’ (FS 9:10)

Week 18: ‘If we wanted to, we would become saints. There are many who, with a stronger and more determined will, would accomplish extraordinary things. They would lead an ordinary life, it is true, but ordinary to an extraordinary degree. That is to say, they would be saints. Are you going to say that God has not called them to such high perfection just because they have not wanted to achieve it? He has, but they have been unfaithful!’ (FS 27:2)

Week 19: ‘Consider well if the pain you feel in your moments of dryness does not come less perhaps from the pain you may be giving to God but rather from vanity. You have seen those little dogs who are always rubbing against their master. If the master is speaking to someone else, the little animal does not, for all that, stop frisking about him, licking his hand. But if it sees that the master is paying no attention to it, well, it still does not go off, but settles at his feet. You should do the same.’ (FS 28)

Week 20: ‘In the novitiate people must form themselves for action as well as for pray-er. If the novices left the novitiate as raw as they leave the major seminary – so that they cannot be set to work at anything – our novitiate would no longer be worth any-thing. It is in the active life that we die to ourselves.’ (FS 16:2) eek 09

Reflect – what does this mean to me - personally? For our community? C. For the whole Society?

End with the Beatification Prayer, including our decisions or plans as the intentions for Fr Colin's intercession, pausing*** to allow each to include their intention.

*“God our Father, in your servant Jean-Claude Colin you gave your people a zealous priest and religious founder dedicated to serving the Church in the spirit of Mary. We ask you for the glorification of your faithful servant in the midst of your Church and grant us the favour which we ask through his intercession. (***) mention requests). This we ask through Christ Our Lord. Amen.”*

Queen of the Society of Mary, pray for us.

☞ Salve Regina...