



mcoleman117@hotmail.co.uk Website: maristway.org

Dear Friends

Pentecost is almost upon us and we must make great efforts to ensure that we observe this great feast, the 'Birth of the Church'. With Bank Holidays having been moved it will be very easy not to celebrate this feast with due dignity. In past years we have distributed leaflets for an octave of prayer - perhaps you still have a copy.

THE SWANWICK CONFERENCE was a great success, although we would have appreciated some more participants. 33 people did attend and Reena McDermott observed:

"The beautiful Hays Conference Centre, in Swanwick, was the setting for the Marist Family Gathering last week-end. Four of us, from Ireland, flew to East -Midlands, on arrival, we were met and warmly greeted by Fr. Michael Coleman. He drove us to the Centre where we were joined by twenty-seven members of the Marist Way: lay men and women, religious sisters, and fathers. Again, we were warmly welcomed and quickly gathered in to the family circle.

Saturday morning proceedings began with Morning Prayer, led by Pam Kershaw. The final line of the concluding prayer: "Enable us to hold open the door of faith, with its promise of salvation, for all humanity." provide a fitting lead-in to the opening session of the day: "Why am I still a Catholic?" presented by the key-note speaker of the day, Eileen McCann from Dundalk, Ireland. She began with the question "Why am I still a Catholic?" and suggested we must look back to our roots to understand the influences that made us who we are and what we have become. Eileen went on to say, I cannot deny who I am! I belong wherever God places me. Whatever God's plan is for me - it is for me to be in the Catholic Church. Too often, when we look for answers for Church we look up, we should be looking within - the reflection of Church is within each of us. I must go where I am fed. Jesus said to Peter, "Will you too leave me?" Peter replied, "Where would I go?" What keeps me in the Church is the Marist gentleness. The Church that I love is in my heart, in my blood, in my soul. I love what it stands for - wanting to bring and to be Jesus. People learn if they are addressed heart to heart. We must learn to listen not with the ear of the body but with the ear of the heart.. The reflection of the Church is in each of us.

SUBSCRIPTIONS It is hard to believe that a full year has passed by since we asked for a subscription of £10.00 from each member of the Marist Way in so far as they could afford it. Members were very generous and it is now that time of year again! Many thanks in anticipation.

MARIST LOURDES PILGRIMAGE Saturday 25th May / 1st June is effectively full. There are just two places available. Travel by coach and ferry. Hotel Esplanade £400.00, Hotel Roissy £530.00. Travel insurance included. 2nd/10th September we will be travelling to Passau where there is a strong Marist presence. Travel both ways by PO North Sea Ferries from Hull to Rotterdam, 5 nights in Passau, 1 night at Kamp Bornhoffen on the Rhine. This should be a very pleasant experience. Cost £595.00.

Marist Liturgical Calendar and Mass Intentions 2013

| Date | Feast or Celebration | Mass Intention |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 19 th May | Pentecost Sunday | |
| 31 st May | Visitation BVM | Living Benefactors |
| 6 th June | Marcellin Champagnat SM | |

M. Coleman SM, Marist Way Regional Animator

YEAR OF THE FOUNDER

Week 25

As for ourselves, we do not take any congregation for our model; we have no other model than the new-born Church.' (FS 42:3)

Week 26

'A man traveling alone along a difficult path finds the going hard, he is afraid of falling down the precipice, and if he has to cross the forest at night he is seized by fear, he is scared of the wild beasts. Even when there is no cause for fear, his imagination gives him many a fright. But if he has a companion, he is not afraid and he steps out confidently.' (FS 44:1)

Week 27

'By the spirit of prayer, by praying without ceasing, I do not mean always having your rosary in your hand, always being prayer; oh no! Certainly we must be faithful in all the little spiritual exercises, so as to sustain our piety. By the spirit of prayer, I mean being continually dependent upon the will of God; being like a child at its father's side.' (FS 44:3)

Week 28

'Piety is like water set over fire. It has various levels of heat. First of all it is tepid, then warm, then boiling, then so hot that it is as it were transformed into spirit. It exists as steam, but steam that is burning hot, and very strong, rising and warming everything about it.' (FS 53:1)