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Dear Friends

This Newsletter promises to be rather crowded with different items. First of all Congratulations and Prayers for Frs Tom Goonan SM, Robin Duckworth SM and Peter Corcoran SM who celebrated their Golden Jubilee of Ordination on 1st April 2015. AD MULTOS ANNOS. Final preparations are in place for the **Marist Lourdes Pilgrimage** which will depart on Sunday 24th and return on Sunday 31st May. Travel by coach and ferry. Cost £420.00 including insurance. **The Marist Day in Walsingham** will be on Saturday 6th July. Please arrive in good time for the 12.00 noon mass and bring some lunch with you. During the afternoon there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Rosary during the walk back to Elham House where there will be afternoon prayer followed by a farewell cup of tea and strawberry bun. It is always a pleasant day and all we need is some good weather to make it memorable. **THE MARIST EUROPEAN LAITY** are actively preparing a large European meeting in Los Negrals, near Madrid, which will take place from 8th to 14th August 2015 with the theme of the meeting being: '*Moving forward with Mary: Marist mission in a Church renewing itself*'. This will be an occasion for deepening and renewing our joy in being a Marist. Booking details are now available. Fr Kevin Mowbray SM (ND Leicester Place) will be the principal speaker at the **Southern Area Day of Recollection** - Saturday 12th September in St Peter Chanel School, Sidcup, at which coffee will be available at 10.30. All are welcome. Finally **FATIMA 11th / 16th October 2015**. Flying Air Portugal from Manchester to Lisbon and return. We would stay in the Hotel Stayler, formerly Verbo Divino which we have used a number of times previously. It will be possible for people to fly Air Portugal from Heathrow return and meet us in Lisbon Airport. Cost £626.00 including insurance. YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT are requested for our mission area of Vanuatu which was recently devastated by the cyclone Pam. It does not feature on the news bulletins now but the suffering and hardships are still very real.

The recent meeting, 13th April, of the Council for the Marist Way was a very busy affair and the following were some of the items under discussion:

Council membership: prior to meeting Maureen Harker had informed Fr Michael and Council of her decision to stand down as a member. This led to a wide ranging discussion of the role of the Council – was it going anywhere? Was it needed? General consensus was that the Council is needed, that it has a valuable role to fulfil: there is a need for people to get together, the development of spirituality is necessary, people learn from one another, the time is now. Possibly a different format is needed for meetings; a spiritual input; new members are needed. It was suggested there should be two meetings per year – one in April and one in October; one, April, to be at Leicester Square and one, October, a residential, at eg Nympsfield or Sunninghill. Guests could be invited. Sister Mary-Magdalen and Maureen H to investigate venues for October 2015. (Proposed date: Sunninghill 20th / 22nd October)

I am sorry to say goodbye to you all in terms of Council membership; when I checked I had been on the Council for 11 years and I think I've run out of steam! The Council does have an important role to play in the life of Marist Way and both are needed now more than ever before - we live in a strange world, in many ways as hostile and threatening as in the days when the Marists came into being - so, work to be done. We will do our best at Sunninghill. With much love to you all and an invocation to Our Lady to take care of all things and members Marist.

Maureen

UN Conference: Maureen Meatcher gave a resume of the events at the UN meeting which focused on Religion and Spirituality in relation to Women's Role in the world. The young are no longer interested in radical feminism; there is a need to fight corruption and establish social justice; a need to pass on what religion teaches so people become spiritually aware; the Church is a service provider to help people; religious leaders are facilitators offering hospitality; in the UK there is a lack of family life; lack of role models; need to connect with young people; family base needed for child development; need to live in the real world; base communities are one with nature.

“We have the capacity to work miracles”

At the March 2015 meeting of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York there was a rise in the number of events which demonstrated the need to view religion as a power for good. In previous conferences religion was often cited as the cause of the lack of progress in women being treated equally with men. This year several presentations explained the value that religion can have in improving the lot of women and thus making the world a better place. In some countries religion has been used to control the population into accepting certain cultural practices. If people were encouraged to read and understand their Holy Books for themselves, they would know what God was asking them to do and be able to enlighten others. Our Marist Spirituality has the means to make this happen. By being welcoming with love and hospitality, we will attract others to the Marist Way.

There used to be a saying “The family that prays together, stays together”. We all have an innate desire to belong to others, so family is important in a child's development. Sociologists tell us that extended family connections make children happier and more resilient. For many young people their only “family” is the gang to which they belong and this may not provide the essential role models for good. Real and authentic life stories can help young people cope with life. As Marists we need to find a way to connect with the younger generation. Could our Marist Family provide these connections?

For many it is their religion that unites them but religion also separates groups. What is needed is a return to spiritual awareness - an inner feeling that there is a supreme being looking after this world who can unite us. We have to live in the real world – science gives us many answers but its logic will only take us from a to b. We need everyone's faith tradition to understand God. Knowing creates reality so we can effect change through our actions. Imagination can take us anywhere. By living our Marist spirituality we have the capacity to work miracles. Maureen Meatcher, Sunninghill

Marist Liturgical Calendar and Mass Intentions 2015

Date	Feast or Celebration	Mass Intention
24 th May	Pentecost Sunday	
31 st May	Trinity Sunday	Living Benefactors SM
6 th June	St Marcellin Champagnat SM	

M. Coleman SM, Marist Way Regional Animator