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Dear Friends

As you can see from the above title to the Newsletter this is the 65<sup>th</sup> year of publication and the 30<sup>th</sup> year for the Marian Devotions. I have tried to keep to a simple format and 'in house' production. In recent years the cost of postage has soared and a review seems to be called for. There is no simple way of checking the address list and so I am going to ask a favour of you. If you still want to receive the printed version of the Newsletter, please cut the address label off the envelope and return it to me at the above address. Equally, if you would like to be on the Email list, send an Email to the above Email address and I will include you on the list. I would like to have the new lists in operation for the New Year. Many thanks.

The Fatima Pilgrimage proved to be very successful. Fifty people, 39 via Manchester and 11 via Heathrow flew to Lisbon on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October. Apart from Monday, which was rather wet, we enjoyed some



very good weather. The mass on the Feast Day, 13<sup>th</sup> October, was attended by a huge crowd - possibly 200,000



pilgrims - was a memorable experience and the 'Adeus' at the end, very moving. We enjoyed perfect weather on Wednesday for our excursion to Batalha, Nazare and Alcobaca which, I am pleased to say, continued through Thursday for our visit to Valhinos, for a very reflective Stations of the Cross and a visit to Aljustrel, the home village of Lucy, Jacinta and Francesco. Travel home went smoothly and all pilgrims had enjoyed a peaceful pilgrimage to Fatima.

The three "Walsingham / Thursford Christmas Extravaganza" (24<sup>th</sup> November, 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> December) are full and this should be a great experience. Over the years this has proven to be a very good preparation for Christmas with our Advent Service and all the Christmas music and poems in the Thursford Extravaganza. Good weather would be a bonus.

2016 is nearly with us and the very special event in Lyon on **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2016** which will be **the Bi-Centenary of the Marist Fourviere Pledge**. This will be marked with a Solemn Mass in the Basilica followed by a celebratory meal. Some progress has been made with arrangements. Travel from Ireland would be by air from Dublin to Lyon. Travel from England would be by Eurostar.

Departure Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July and return Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2016. Final cost has yet to be finalized, but we hope to achieve around £475.00 from London and £625 from Dublin. Cost would include 4 nights half board accommodation in en-suite rooms and a full programme, including excursions, in Lyon. Single room supplement £55.00. Insurance would be extra. Booking forms will be soon available. Contact NICKI at Tangney Tours 01732 880 652.

**COUNCIL FOR THE MARIST WAY** met in Sunninghill for a time of reflection on the theme "Being instruments of divine mercy in the year of mercy". Members contributed to the event and Sr Monica SM gave a profound reflection on the theme of mercy and our founders. She quoted: "How I long for this notion of mercy to take root in all of us". (Jean Claude Colin SM). we were most grateful to Tom Baker, Sidcup, who led our morning prayer with the reflection which is reproduced as the Marian Devotion for this month. Some thoughts from the talks:

*The Marist Way is a living branch of the Society of Mary – part of a dynamic spiritual tradition within the Catholic Church. Its purpose is to contribute to the realization of the original vision articulated by the founders – to live the Gospel in the Spirit of Mary – to be instruments of God's mercy.*

**Fr Jean-Claude Colin says:** 'Let us learn to understand the human heart. Let us put ourselves in the place of those we address. Would outbursts of anger win their hearts? Rather, let us find excuses for them, congratulate them on their good qualities (there are always some) but no reproaches. I do not know of a single instance where anger has done any good, not a single one.....' Fr Colin opened the first mission with the words: 'We have come among you as instruments of divine mercy'.

**Jeanne-Marie Chavoïn:** understood 'hidden and unknown' as a dynamic – an opening out with empathy. Compassion, mercy and love to all – in all forms of ministry irrespective of class, colour or creed. The essential values she strove to transmit to the Sisters in her dealings with people were faith, prayer, simplicity and authentic gospel living.

**Saint Marcellin Champagnat:** encouraged his brothers to live by the 'Five Pillars' – Presence, Simplicity, Love of Work, Family Spirit and in the Manner of Mary. They witness to this in their ministry to disadvantaged young people – in schools, learning centres for struggling students, prisons, refugee camps, in war torn countries such as Syria, African countries and Asia

### Marist Liturgical Calendar and Mass Intentions 2015

Date	Feast or Celebration	Mass Intention
29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	First Sunday of Advent	
8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Immaculate Conception BVM	
25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Day. Birth of Christ	

M. Coleman SM, Marist Way Regional Animator