

MARISTS ON A JOURNEY

Catechetics 5/12

15 November 2012

The goal is what gives meaning: 4. A MEETING WITH THE POPE AS MARISTS

In the last Catechetics we spoke about the need to deepen our sense of Church.

Today, the day when we publish this new catechetics is the day when we remember the death of Father Juan Claude Colin, the Founder of the Society of Mary together with the first group of Marist men and women.

The motivation of the first group of Marists and what brought them together was the certainty that it was Mary who wanted a Society founded in her name to be the support of the Church in the difficult time of post revolution France just as she was in the beginning and will be at the end of time.

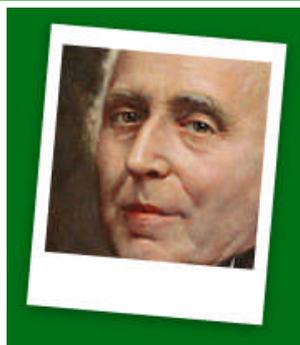
A love for the Church and the Pope was always very present in the Marist spirit. This love is expressed particularly in our commitment and support

springing from our sense of mission, to be "the presence of Mary", a spirit of renewal which gives the church a New Face, a new Life: "The Society of Mary must begin a New Church". This was not to be a distinct church but rather a renewed church based on the model of the early church, with the emphasise on simplicity, warmth, mercy, listening, welcoming and communion, based on a profound love of Christ and the Brothers and



Sisters called by Mary. Now that we prepare ourselves to participate in this church gathering in Rio de Janeiro, hopefully we do it from our Marist identity, of Mary's discreet presence, giving the church a new face of mercy, simplicity, service, welcome, discreet freedom from any attachment to power.....
a MARIAN FACE

Juan Claude Colin (5/7/1790-15/11/1875)



As Marists we believe that God in Father Colin has gifted the church with a treasure for the world: a hope, modest but firm, that God can use us as instruments of mercy in his service, so that the spirit of Mary can be present wherever he wishes and in the way he wishes that the New Church be born.

The first Marists were very courageous with this treasure, they placed it at the service of the church in France and in Oceania. Later on, men and women of all ages, lay, religious, priests, from the five continents have adopted and shared this way of life, "to think, feel, judge and act like Mary."

OUR FIVE CONTENTS

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Catechetics 5: Disciples and Church

PILGRIMAGE—JOURNEY



THE MEANING OF THE PILGRIMAGE: THE CHURCH.

For the Church, the community of those who are called to be disciples of Jesus, to be the sacrament of His presence, words and actions in the world, it is a privilege to know, love and follow Jesus in community, which is the essential Christian experience. It is in the Church, through a member or a church activity that we have come to know Jesus, His Word and Sacraments. Traditionally the Church was described as a Pilgrim Church. The Church Triumphant is that of those people who have died having lived a life of fidelity to the Gospel and having now arrived in the House of God. We who form part of the Church on earth are known as the Pilgrim Church as we seek to be faithful to Jesus in this world. Certainly this pilgrimage is not easy and as an institution the church poses a problem of faith for many young people today. Many disassociate faith in Jesus from faith in the church. *We recommend a Reading of Lumen Gentium 1,9 the Constitution on the Church, Documents of Vatican II.*

In what sense are we disciples in the Church? What is your image of the Church? How is the Church a pilgrim church? What do you feel you have received in the Church?

DISCIPLES OF JESUS



PRAYERFUL LISTENING TO THE WORD

In an atmosphere of prayer, read, meditate and look for the elements of continuity in these three readings:

- Luke 4, 14-22
- Luke 24, 44-49
- Acts of the Apostles

What is the mission of Jesus? What does the Church need to do to continue his mission? Which of these activities are evident in your parish or in your group?

MISSIONARIES



The Word Church comes from the Greek “ekklesia” which signifies, “those who have been called”. We have all been baptised and as such follow Jesus, we are the Church. In all Biblical tradition right from Old Testament times every person called has a mission. All are called by God to fulfill a particular mission. The Church has a mission which is shared by all the members, it exists to evangelize, to make Jesus present in His message and His Word. The Church exists to work towards building the Kingdom of God (we will speak of this in catechetics six), that is to say the Church exists for mission, it is missionary.

The Church is sent by God to all peoples to be “the universal sacrament of salvation” obeying the mandate of its founder, (cf. Mark 16, 15) to be catholic. It strives to announce the Gospel to all peoples. ... to announce and establish the Reign of God in the whole world, ... and in this way form one family, one People of God.. (Number 1 of the Documents of Vatican II for the missionary activity of the Church : “Ad Gentes”)

See also YouCat numbers : 121-128.

THE VOICE OF THE POPE:

Rejoice always in the Lord!» (Phil.4,4) PART 3.



We continue with the Pope's message to youth written for World Youth Day 2012.

4. The joy of love

Dear friends, joy is intimately linked to love. They are inseparable gifts of the Holy Spirit (cf. *Gal 5:23*). Love gives rise to joy, and joy is a form of love. **Blessed Teresa of Calcutta** drew on Jesus' words: "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (*Acts 20:35*) when she said: "Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls; God loves a cheerful giver. Whoever gives with joy gives more". As the Servant of God Paul VI wrote: "In God himself, all is joy because all is giving" (Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete in Domino*, 9 May 1975).

In every area of your life, you should know that to love means to be steadfast, reliable and faithful to commitments. This applies most of all to friendship. Our friends expect us to be sincere, loyal and faithful because true love perseveres even in times of difficulty. The same thing can be said about your work and studies and the services you carry out. Fidelity and perseverance in doing good brings joy, even if not always immediately.

If we are to experience the joy of love, we must also be generous. We cannot be content to give the minimum. We need to be fully committed in life and to pay particular attention to those in need. The world needs men and women who are competent and generous, willing to be at the service of the common good. Make every effort to study conscientiously, to develop your talents and to put them at the service of others even now. Find ways to help make society more just and humane wherever you happen to be. May your entire life be guided by a spirit of service and not by the pursuit of power, material success and money.

Speaking of generosity, I would like to mention one particular joy. It is the joy we feel when we respond to the vocation to give our whole life to the Lord. Dear young people, do not be afraid if Christ is calling you to the religious, monastic or missionary life or to the priesthood. Be assured that he fills with joy all those who respond to his invitation to leave everything to be with him and to devote themselves with undivided heart to the service of others. In the same way, God gives great joy to men and women who give themselves totally to one another in marriage in order to build a family and to be signs of Christ's love for the Church.

Let me remind you of a third element that will lead you to the joy of love. It is allowing fraternal love to grow in your lives and in those of your communities. There is a close bond between communion and joy. It is not by chance that Saint Paul's exhortation: "Rejoice in the Lord always" (*Phil 4:4*) is written in the plural, addressing the community as a whole, rather than its individual members. Only when we are together in the communion of fellowship do we experience this joy. In the Acts of the Apostles, the first Christian community is described in these words: "Breaking bread in their homes, they ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart" (*Acts 2:46*). I ask you to make every effort to help our Christian communities to be special places of sharing, attention and concern for one another.

*"Rejoice
always in
the Lord"*

(Phil 4,4)

Reflect and share.

"The Church is called to be the touch of God for the world"
Juan Pablo II .

MARY DISCIPLE OF JESUS

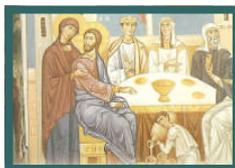
MARIST REFERENCES

Marists regard with special attention the places where Mary inspires life and work:

NAZARETH



A time to educate our interior life in silence, prayer, and our capacity for awe. A time to develop a new way of looking at God, the world, the church and every human being. A time to encounter the strength to act.

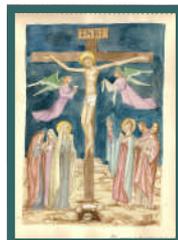


CANA in GALILEE

An opportunity in two stages: To listen to the thirsting world of today (“they have no wine”), and to strengthen our renewed confidence to act: (“Do whatever he tells you”)

CALVARY

A time to welcome Mary as mother “Behold your mother”. “This is your Son”.



PENTECOST

The source of the Church and of your vocation, servant of the Gospel, encounters with other Christians, a time for the Spirit, for community, for mission.



Cf. www.maristes-france.org/spop218/spis.php?article316

Share on the fruit of your reflection in these sessions.

Is there some aspect of the Church which it is important to renew?

Is there one of these places of reference which helps you to describe better Mary in relation to the Church and Marist spirituality?

Practical Information

Many thanks to those who have forwarded the pre-inscription list

November 2012= the final month to forward your pre-inscription list.

December 2012= first payment (50% = 250 € or the equivalent in other currency) so that we can be together as Marists for the big events.

May 2013= 50% remaining.

