

We live and act in the real world, not content with a mere theoretical approach to life.

We are sensitive to hidden values and are naturally well-disposed toward the humble and the poor.

WITNESSES OF A SERVANT CHURCH

Mary lived in hope ... from Nazareth to Pentecost.

With her, we move onward in faith toward the future, toward the unknown.

Convinced that the Lord is master of human events and obedient to the promptings of the Holy Spirit ever at work within Church, we aim 'to begin again a new Church.'

Our communities are witnesses of a servant Church striving to become its Marian ideal ... a Church forever seeking to be Christ-like: not lording, but serving, ready to give up any privileged status provided the LORD be proclaimed.

We en flesh this spirit through the vows we profess, the common life we share, our rule of life and our apostolates.

This Marist spirit lives on today in the Society bearing the name of Mary.

We hope to share our spirit with future generations.

FOR THE GREATER GLORY OF GOD AND THE HONOR OF MARY!

For more information about the Marists, please visit:

<https://www.societyofmaryusa.org>



- 1790** Fr. John Claude Colin was born on the 7th of August In Salnt-Bonnet-le-Troncy, a town In the Beaujolais region of France.
- 1816** Fr. Colin, with other young priests and seminarians, pledged to establish a Society of Mary in the Chapel of Our Lady of Fourvière, Lyons. In the same year he became a parish priest in Cerdon.
- 1825** Fr. Colin was appointed a "home missionary" by the bishop of Beiley.
- 1829** Fr. Colin was named superior of the minor seminary in Beliey.
- 1830** Fr. Colin was elected "superior" of the group of Marist aspirants.
- 1836** In January the Pope confided the missions of Western Oceania in the South Pacllic.
- 1836** In April Rome approved the Society of Mary, Marist Fathers.
- 1836** In September the first twenty Marist Fathers made their profession and Fr. Colin was elected as the First Superior General.
- 1836** On Christmas Eve, the first group of Marist missionaries left for the missions.
- 1854** Fr. Colin resigned as Superior General to La Neyliere where an atmosphere of prayer allowed him to work on the Constitutions.
- 1875** The death of Fr. Colin on the 15th of November.



THE SOCIETY OF MARY

TODAY'S MARIST

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To be a Marist means to have been called by the Lord's gracious favor to live the Good News as Mary did in the Society that bears her name.

Handmaid of the Lord, she became the Mother of God's only begotten Son. She was the first of all believers to respond to the Good News of God's eternal Love ... first to understand the mission of Jesus as Servant of all, sharing his poverty and his total dedication to the Father's will.

MARY AT PENTECOST AND IN NAZARETH

Marists learn from Mary her singular openness to the Spirit and her distinctive manner of serving the Church.

Fr. John-Claude Colin and his first companions were inspired by the presence of Mary at the moment of the Church's birth at Pentecost.

Although a simple believer among the Apostles Mary was in a unique way the figure of what the Church should be.

And as she was the support and strength of the nascent Church so would she be in these last days as today's disciples carry on their sacred mission.

Fr. Colin also discovered that same insight when he contemplated the mystery of Nazareth.

He would say:
"I place myself in the home of Nazareth and there I learn all that I have to do."

Following, then, in the footsteps of the first Marists we too make our own their insight, meditating as they did upon the role of Mary at Pentecost and at Nazareth, Mary in the early Church and in these end times.



LIVING THE SPIRIT OF MARY

Thus it is that the Society of Mary is not characterized by any special type of ministry not by any particular Marian devotion. Rather it is the vocation of Marists to make the mystery of Mary in the church their constant inspiration.

The Society of Mary, in its life of prayer, in its living in community, in its choice of apostolates, manifests one concern: to think, to judge, to feel and to act in every way as Mary would.

Our lifestyle and manner of working in the Church, and our relationship with everyone mirror our Founder's intuition.

We seek to collaborate closely with everyone in continuing Christ's mission, always ready to surrender our place to others, when the good of the mission demands it.

We recognize the unity that is essential among the People of God.

And so we foster communion with all believers while respecting the diversities

that arise from different cultures and circumstances.

To this end we pledge fidelity to the Bishop of Rome, and to shepherds and pastors in the Church.

We also maintain our prophetic witness as a religious community for the Church and the world.

HIDDEN AND UNKNOWN

The touchstone, so to speak, of a Marist's apostolate is contained in the oft repeated words of Fr. Colin: "Hidden and unknown in the world."

Far from inhibiting a Marist's undertaking great tasks for the Lord, these words indicate, rather, the manner of carrying them out and brings to mind their true source and inspiration namely, the Gospel teaching.

Jesus, living among the people of his day, was keenly aware of their real needs.

What attracted people to Jesus was His great love for them. He did not possess those He loved nor did He impose Himself upon them.

Mary inspires us with the same Gospel lesson.

When we contemplate her presence among the Disciples, we see her active, yet very discreet. She helps us discern the restlessness of the human heart as well as the hope that burns within the human soul.

Such a spirit leads us to reject all false pretense, to avoid calling unnecessary attention to ourselves, and challenges us to be open to others, serving them with simplicity.