



## DARE TO DREAM

### INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF MARIST YOUTH

An International Marist Youth Meeting, which took place in Lyon from July 17 – 23, was the first time youth of the four Marist branches came together for a week. Forty volunteers animated the event, which gathered 400 youths from the four Marist branches – the Marist Brothers, Fathers, Sisters and Missionary Sisters. Two hundred and fifty of them are from the branch of the Marist Brothers.

The gathering took place in the Marist School of Sainte Marie Lyon – La Solitude, located on the hill of Fourvière and the youth stayed at the Lycée Aux Lazaristes high school. It concluded with a Eucharistic celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Fourvière Promise, along with all the Marist family in the Basilica of Fourvière.

## MONDAY, 18 JULY 2016

After the assembling prayer, the morning was dedicated to the presentation of all the groups, Provinces or countries of origin of the participants.

What a great emotion it is to become aware that beyond frontiers, languages and cultures, the intuitions and the Charisma of our Foundresses and Founders continue to move, to affect so many young people throughout the world.

For some of the dynamics, the young were distributed in small communities or groups of about twenty to facilitate the exchanges and sharing.

And so then, distributed, the participants were invited to discover the 4 Branches of the Marist family: The Marist Sisters and the Missionary Sisters of the Marist Mission, who are more simply called SMSM, the Marist Priests and finally the Marist Brothers.

Each Congregation was installed under a tent to present its Founder or Foundress, its places where it was established and its specificities.



After this time of discovery, the groups were able to exchange and share on their discoveries of the different Marist realities.

After a personal time of silence and appropriation, we gathered for the Eucharist. It was an intense moment

of prayer, of sharing, of communion and of fervor. The day was completed, ended with the first part of the "Marist Festival " which showed the value of several groups and countries which offered us a spectacle full of color, made of songs, dances and traditional costumes.

## TUESDAY, JULY 19: DRINK AT THE SOURCE



On Tuesday, July 19, the young Marists participating in the International Meeting of Young Marists in Lyon were invited to drink at the source, to discover the places of foundation which have a strong symbolical dimension for each one of the Congregations.

To be permeated, to experience, to be affected by the places, their history, what they represent.

### **Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary (SMSM), Ste Foy Lès Lyon, La Neylière**

The time of welcome at the "signal" of Ste Foy Lès Lyon, in the first house of formation in which the missionary Sisters were formed before leaving on mission.

To experience how Françoise Perrotton responded to the call of God.

And then strong witnesses from an Italian Sister and a Tongan Sister.

The young were moved, touched by the exclusively missionary dimension of the Congregation.

They left the place where they lived to be sent to the world. Then the departure for Neylière, Françoise Perrotton turned toward the Marist Priests who were already on mission.

Then the visit of the frescoes of the chapel, the tomb of Father Collin; the prayer all united with the groups of Marist Priests for the unity of the Marist Family and their Founders.

Then followed the visit to the place Collin and of the museum of Oceania

To experience the intuition of Father Collin that the world would be Marist

Then the celebration of the Eucharist, prayer and fraternity between the Marist Priests and the SMSM

### **Marist Sisters Cerdon, Belley**

During the journey towards Cerdon, a small stop on the balm to see Cerdon from on high, and a stop in front the memorial of the French Resistance.

Once we arrived to Cerdon: visit to the Church and the Marist presence in Cerdon thanks to the great Mari-an Poster.

Then the prayer and the lighting of candles to offer our dreams before the statue of the Virgin Mary before which Jean-Claude Collin and Jeanne-Marie Chavoin prayed to our Lady of Cerdon.

This is equally a way of perpetuating the tradition of the inhabitants of Cerdon to light candles around Our Lady of Cerdon.

Then the visit to what is left of the first house of the Marist Sisters.

Then we visited the cellar to taste the famous local sparkling wine. After lunch, we left for Belley; there we visited the house of Jeanne-Marie Chavoin, and the Chapel where her remains are kept; a prayer of union in the Chapel, a meeting with the elderly Sisters of Belley, ice-cream and fresh drinks for all.

We then visited the historical museum and the cemetery of the Sisters.

It was a beautiful day for the young, which no doubt has changed their heart, thanks especially to the encounter and the sharing with the elderly Sisters.

### **Marist Priests, la Neylière**

This was a day of breathing, at the expense of the Neylière; a day of beautiful encounters, all the team of the Formators of the Marist Priests was present and joined the group of the young for the visit of the place.

It was an experience of prayer and knowledge of the house that very few young people knew. One could read the joy on their faces when the time to return arrived, a witness of the joy that this day of discovery had given them.

**Marist Brothers  
Our Lady of l'Hermitage  
(St Chamond)**

What is important in l'Hermitage are not the stones, but the spirit of fraternity and communion that one experiences in that place.

The experience of the mixed community moved, impressed the people because of its welcome and com-

munity life that make possible the dream of Marcelin Champagnat. Many of the young know the life of the Founder and l'Hermitage in the books. But now they were able to touch, to experience what the life of Champagnat was since these places are permeated by it.

Each one was able to live the spirit of the Founders and Foundresses, to nourish themselves with their history, their intuitions, the call of God which urged them to believe and to dream of a better future.

## WEDNESDAY, 20 JULY 2016

On Wednesday, 20 July, the over 400 young Marists in Lyon, made a journey with Mary.

As pilgrims in faith, we have to be open to listen to the stories of men and women filled with the Marist charism.

Roundtables organised around the testimonies of committed people.

Asked about the experience that marked them in their Marist life, these five witnesses shared with us, with simplicity and great depth, the things that encourage them.

Mariliza shared with us her experience in pastoral animation and her feeling of being "a young Marist in action."

John expressed his satisfaction of being a Marist missionary in Asia at the service of those who are abandoned the most.

Sinalelea told about his returning to Tonga and the fight of women to defend their rights in the country.

He thinks that "Mary has been the strongest woman."

Marie-Antoinette, of Togo, sent to Senegal in 2013, has been working with disabled children for six months, a humble and discrete service.

"The Lord called me to take me there and turn me into a Marist sister. One has to stay opened to God's



calling." Finally, Ronaldo, from Brazil, shared his experience with the Marist youth ministry, which encourages young people to be protagonists of their own lives so that they can influence others.

Participants united by communities were able to leave a written record in the "Museum of the confluences" of what those testimonies produced in their lives.

The afternoon was a fun moment that led the four branches to have a meeting by maintaining a rich dialogue between young people and the four superior generals. We have been invited to a "revolu-

tion of tenderness" to take care of others but also of ourselves - of our spiritual being.

They encouraged us to do what is good in all circumstances, without shuffling moments.

They encouraged us to find our own answers to the Lord's call and to take our responsibilities as baptized.

They invited us to dream and to make our dreams come true.

The day ended quietly with a vigil in the style of Taizé in the crypt of the Basilica accompanied by a beautiful coral.

# PICTURES OF THE INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF YOUNG MARISTS



## CHRONICAL – THURSDAY, JULY 21



The priest of the Parish Saint Paul welcomed us in his Church for Morning Prayer.

We are under the protection of the first Christians of Lyon and of the martyrs of this city.

We are invited to include in our prayers all the victims and martyrs of our time.

After a short walk, Dare to Dream is welcomed by the Municipality of Lyon in the courtyard of honour of the Hôtel de Ville.

There is the evocation of the bonds that unite the city and the Marist history.

The participants as always divided into communities, leave to discover different experiences and associations of social type implanted in this Rhône city.

These associations are in some way

committed in the service of the less favored or of social justice.

Then the celebration around the 4 words: Dream, transform, take care and serve others.

As a symbol, and in order to be placed in the following of Christ, the washing of the feet; Humbly to kiss and wash the feet of our companions.

Take care of one another; emotion and communion for all.

This was, surely, one of the most intense and strongest moments of the encounter.

It is at the sound of pop-rock of the concert of Kairoi that this very full day and rich of emotions ended.

The group that came from Catalonia diffused and transmitted its energy to the young Marists who only asked for that.



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FRIDAY, 22 JULY



Last day of activities, Trip by cars to Our Lady of l'Hermitage, Warm welcome by the members of the community.

After José-Antonio and his team set the dynamic condition, the participants who as always were divided into communities were challenged, around the extract of the Gospel of Emmaus, regarding their sentiments concerning this encounter.

They expressed their experience in one word while they shared the bread, like the disciples had done with Christ.

Then followed a picnic outside in the country and the weather forecast had the good thought to spare us a little.

The afternoon dynamic, a change of groups around 4 places of l'Her-

mitage and the 4 axes: Mary, the Church, the Mission,....

In each place, the groups exchanged and, at the end of their discussion, they should concretize their exchanges by different supports or symbols.

The day at l'Hermitage was ended by the final message of the encounter and the word was again given to the Superiors General.

To dare to dream, Dare to Dream, let us in fact dare to dream a Church with a Marian Face, committed in the service of the most humble, attentive to all, men and women.

This renewed Church; the young Marists strongly commit themselves to construct it. Such is their dream, and it is already on the way.

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