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Dear Friends

Sorry that there wasn't a Newsletter in October. It was just 'one of those months' when I simply could not get started and yet now, on reflection, there are so many things to share with you. The Marist Fathers have had to notify the Archbishop of Southwark that, as from September 2012, we will not be able to supply clergy for the parish of St Lawrence of Canterbury, Main Road, Sidcup. Marists have been responsible for this parish since 1904 and have appreciated the great loyalty shown them by the parishioners over the years. Please pray for the parishioners at this difficult time of change.

The Days of Recollection which were held in September were very special occasions. The theme "Towards a Marian Church" was presented by Claire Leeder in Sunninghill and Pam Kershaw in Wombwell with dexterous use of Power Point. I am most grateful for the ready involvement of members in the presentation of these days and the open reception given to them by the members of the Marist way. The above news from Sidcup emphasizes the importance of members' involvement in the future of the Marist Way. Over the years a great deal has been written about "The Spirit of Mary" and what it means. This year I have experienced the 'Spirit of Mary' at the Marist Day in Walsingham, the European meeting in Francheville, in our own Days of Recollection and the recent Lourdes pilgrimage. Somebody commented to me recently: "Suffice to say I am upset about it (future of Sidcup) as I owe your order so much in an understanding of my religious life." The 'Spirit of Mary' may well be difficult to define but it is a wonderful thing to experience.

In this month of November we remember the Holy Souls and especially all Marists - Priests, Brothers, Sisters and Members of the Marist Way who have died. Remember all those recently deceased, including Clive Dean, Middlesbrough, and all those who have died during the past year. May they rest in peace. Amen.

#### MARISTS IN HISTORY

**Etienne Terailon** was one of those who made the promise at Fourviere in 1816; he was also among the group of 20 who took vows in 1836; and he was the first vicar general of the Society.

In 1859 he wrote his recollections of the meetings which took place in the seminary. Forty years after the event, he recalls the two strong feelings among the group of seminarians: a sense of privilege at bearing Mary's name, and a sense of responsibility to act in her way and to do her work.

"We then shared our impressions, and we decided to put our energies into carving out the project that had appealed to us the first time we heard about it. From that time on, the four of us, Courveille, Declas, Colin and myself, began meeting. In those meetings we fed on each other's enthusiasm for the work.. We used those meetings to inflame our enthusiasm, at times with the thought that we had the happiness of being the first children of Mary, and at times with the thought of the great needs of the people."

**Marist Liturgical Calendar and Mass Intentions 2011**

Date	Feast or Celebration	Mass Intention
Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup>		Deceased Marists
4 <sup>th</sup>		Deceased Benefactors SM
15 <sup>th</sup>	Anniversary of Jean -Claude Colin SM 1875	Society of Mary

M. Coleman SM, Marist Way Regional Animator

**YOU MAY LIKE TO ACT ON THIS.....**

The Royal Mail should be praised (perhaps you would like to do so!) for honouring the birth of Our Saviour in its Christmas stamps this year. The first and second class stamps show Jesus in the Arms of Mary and the Angel appearing to Joseph. The relevant biblical reference from Matthew's Gospel is clearly given on each stamp.

Now all Christians should ensure that they buy and use these stamps for their Christmas mail and also encourage their Christian friends and contacts to do so as well. The stamps should be available from all Post Offices and stamp retailers from Tuesday 8th November.

If we, as Christians, can demonstrate massive support for these stamps, maybe the Royal Mail will reconsider its policy of promoting a purely secular view of this great Christian festival in alternate years. Meanwhile, if we fail in that, remember that the "Madonna" stamps remain available throughout the year and use those in the "secular" years.

