

Homily for 12 September 2026

This is what Father Colin, our founder, says: "I reflect on the name I bear, what hope and comfort. The name of Mary that we bear was not given to us by men; it came from Heaven. »

Today we are gathered for the feast of the Holy Name of Mary. We are happy and full of joy to bear the Name of Mary. We are gathered under her name.

We who are Marist Sisters, Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary, Marist Brothers, Lay Marists, we are in this chapel which has welcomed many young men who were being formed for the Marist vocation. God has called them to the service of the Church as he calls us today. We are invited to look at the Face of Mary not only today in France but throughout the world. Because on this day let us celebrate Mary.

Father Colin had an extraordinary dream when he founded the Society with Marcelin Champagnat, Jeanne Marie Chavoin, and many lay people. What would he think when he saw the International Society made up of women, men of different cultures and continents? Is this the society of Mary that they dreamed of? What questions could they ask us who bear this name? Bearing this name goes far beyond simply bearing the name of a person we like. It means accepting a certain responsibility; asking ourselves what it means to look at the world through Mary's eyes, to be as available as she was, to trust God even when we do not fully know the way to go. To bear the name of Mary is also to ask ourselves what we want people to find in us today.

This is what we who have come to celebrate the departure of the Marist Fathers and to open a new adventure, you who are the new tenants of this magnificent house. You have to carry out this new mission.

The history of the Society of Mary is not only found within the walls of our homes, in Ste Foy, in Lyon, in St Genis Laval, in the Hermitage, in Belley, but it is found in the people we meet. Through their welcome, the sharing of their lives with us, they become an integral part of this mission that we live in a different way and that you are going to live in this house of Ste Foy.

As Mary said to the angel, do not be afraid, the Lord is with you. The Lord will continue to be with us. This History will continue to live today. Perhaps we will discover a new way of living and inhabiting this house

We are called to renew our vows and our commitment to serve the Church in the manner of Mary.

All together, let us be happy to bear the name of Mary and let us give thanks for what the Marist Fathers lived in this house and what we are called to live.

Amen

Father Roger Lordong SM