

Epilogue

At the end of this series of retreat talks on Marist themes, I will try to sum up briefly what we have seen and the connection between the parts.

I have come to regard the Colnian legacy to the Society of Mary as consisting of three elements: a Vision, a Spirituality and a Rule. These three elements complement one another: the Vision, expressed in the Great Themes, inspires; the Spirituality gives life and depth; the Rule shapes a way of living for individuals and communities. We need all three. Without the Vision, the Rule is simply a collection of regulations; without the Spirituality, the Great Themes are just slogans; without the Rule, the Spirituality is an abstraction or a self-indulgence. Perhaps some of our difficulties in recent times have been due to an attempt to direct Marist life uniquely by the Vision. With all three – Vision, Spirituality and Rule – we will, I believe, be people who can do Mary's work.