

Presentation

Forum Novum 2009 recalls several inspirational moments from our history for Marist life today.

50 years ago, Pope John XXIII announced Vatican Council II. We look back at the Marists present at the Council and we explore the aftermath of Vatican II in the Society of Mary. This includes an article from Brother Aureliano Brambila FMS on a question discussed by the Marist Brothers during the Council. The memory of Vatican II happens in the year when the Society gathers for a general chapter to seek ‘a new Pentecost’ as the Council did.

20 years ago *Forum Novum* was launched as the journal of the Society for studies on its history and spirituality. Two testimonies by the founders talk about the origins. Today all the volumes form a substantial library and lasting resource material.

10 years ago all Marists, in particular the Brothers, celebrated with the whole Church the canonization of Marcellin Champagnat. Brother Bigotto FMS asks: What does ‘sainthood’ mean for us Marists today?

In 2009 the Society of Mary launched important publications on the Catholic Church in Oceania: the letters of the first missionaries, edited by Charles Girard, in nine volumes, and the talks given in Auckland and Suva in 2007. We publish two of the talks from the book launches.

In 2008 we dedicated one issue of *Forum Novum* to ‘Marists in education’. Two articles in this volume continue the reflection.

The general chapter of September 2009 marks the end of the mandate given to Jan Hulshof as superior general and his assistants in 2001. This mandate included – as for each general council – to safeguard, explore and share our spiritual patrimony. This was and still is the mission of this journal. I thank all who contributed to it over the last years as authors, translators, or in other ways. And I encourage you to make good use of the resources offered in the 11 volumes 1989-2009.

Hubert Bonnet-Eymard, Assistant general, Rome