

46. A new Church

This story as recorded by Fr Mayet catches an informal moment when Fr Colin was talking in the dining room of the then motherhouse of Puylata in Lyons. We immediately sense the power and passion of an authentic voice as he talks about a new Church and the intrinsic role to be played by the Third Order.

CONVERSATION IN THE DINING ROOM – SEPTEMBER 27, 1846

“Let us take courage and work hard, but always unknown and hidden. Let us keep away from those who rely on merely human eloquence. The Society must begin a new Church over again. I do not mean that in a literal sense, that would be blasphemy. But still, in a certain sense, yes, we must begin a new Church. The Society of Mary, like the Church, began with simple, poorly educated men, but since then, the Church has developed and encompassed everything. We too must gather together everyone through the Third Order – heretics alone may not belong to it”.

LM Doc. 114. (See E. Keel, p. 63)

Colin saw the need for a ‘new’ Church,
a Church needing to transcend itself
to meet the new realities of the times.
Marists would be part of this process,
using the formula “hidden and unknown”.

Colin’s vision of this new Church is inclusive,
gathering everybody back to God through Mary.
And he sees this as happening through the laity.

How prophetic his words are today!
Lay Marists can foster this transformation by working
with and within the Church,
helping to give it a more feminine, a Marian face.

