

50. A tree with several branches

The metaphor of a tree with several branches was the earliest image used for the Society of Mary, according to this personal note from Fr Mayet from 1844 (found in the remembrances of Fr Étienne Déclas). Father Colin spoke often of this living image, likening it to the body of the Blessed Virgin: "Her body will have several branches".

PERSONAL REMARK FROM FR MAYET ON FR COLIN'S MANNER OF SPEAKING ABOUT THE ORIGINS OF THE SOCIETY OF MARY

Note. I ought to say here that never before had I heard the Very Reverend Father Superior General Colin relate these facts in such detail and, I might add, in such a natural manner. Every time he spoke intimately about our beginnings, he used to use short, mysterious phrases which I have often reported, for example, "that the first image given of the Society was in the form of a tree with three branches".

LM Doc. 76. [OM 591, 21] (See E. Keel, p. 7)

To be a Marist is to belong to a family.
From the very beginning, the Marist vision was for a variety of branches,
including lay men, women and children, sisters, brothers and priests
who all share the one spirit of Mary and
who all share in the task of doing her work.
The time has now come for the Marist laity branch
to produce its own fruit.

