

# Colin Cause Network

Bulletin, Jan 2021



Dear CCN Confrères

Greetings from Sydney, hoping this finds each of you well, and safe from the virus. I know some of you have had close encounters!

## This bulletin...

.... will hopefully be a helpful step in our CCN communications, to include news of what units have been doing or are planning as well as giving updates on the progress of the Cause and any resources, new or re-developed, to better tell the story of Jean-Claude Colin.

At least, that's the theory of it!

## Cause Process

For reports on how the Cause is progressing we rely on our Postulator (Carlo-Maria Schianchi), Vice-Postulator (Bernard Thomasset) and our man in Rome (Ben McKenna). I will forward any updates to our Network through email &/or this bulletin.

## Colin novena

As our first major Network initiative, this was very successful. (See next page, 'Our December Zoom')

## Zooming

Whilst I consult with Ben in the planning of Zoom sessions, feel free to suggest items or make comments, either to Ben or myself, especially re agenda for future sessions.

Local times for the various units really need to be checked by CCN members prior to our sessions. Google will readily tell you the current time in Sydney, which will

remain the reference point.

The Zoom link remains the same and is accessed at the foot of our web page: *The Cause / Network*. Being online 5-10 minutes early gives us a good chance to say 'Hi' before the session begins.

## Emails

I will continue to use email for messages to our group, and hope to maintain individual contact as well. In both these, even a brief response / acknowledgement will always be appreciated.

## Matters to think and pray about...

**Marist Litany:** Following on from the Colin novena, Alois Greiler has begun to develop a 'Marist Litany', invoking Marists who have inspired us throughout our history and in many parts of the world. Ben and I are working with Alois to offer ideas for developing the litany to include further names of significant men in all our units.

You may wish to do as I have done, and raise this with your own community. It's likely the names of great Marists will easily emerge.

**Seeking graces:** as we think more about praying through Fr Colin as an intercessor for graces, large or small, you may wish to send the name/s and brief details of local people who are seeking graces through his intercession. These (with a photo if possible) can readily be included on *The Cause / Seeking graces* page of the Colin website.

**Two prayers for graces ...** have been prepared in bookmark format,

identical except for the inclusion in one of these of the words 'miraculous (*grace*)' and 'exclusive (*intercession*)'. These will be uploaded before long to *The Cause / Seeking graces* pages on the website, and in six languages.

I can send laminated cards on request.

**Themes:** There is a page at the end of the *Resources* menu on the Colin website where there are a small number of varied resources. Not all are overtly Colinian. Eg, a leaflet on Etienne Déclas, inspired by the work of two African seminarians.

You may have students or others who can add to this collection of resources.

**New ideas:** Let our creative juices flow as we consider new ways of telling the story of Jean-Claude Colin... prayers, songs, liturgies, articles, website improvements, etc.

**News Page:** For some time I have been thinking of a News page on the Colin website. As events happen and are reported from our units, especially accompanied by a photo or two, I would gladly upload them.

So much for the moment, Confrères. I hope to be in touch before long with a Zoom date.

God bless you and keep you safe.

Faternally

Jan 20, 2021

## Our December Zoom...

.... was on Dec 04, 2020, in which we shared what had happened in our unit leading up to Nov 15, 'Colin Day'. Reports included:

**Africa:** Novena material, in English and French, sent to all communities in the District; novena available for Lay Marists as well; novena started on the same day in Cameroon, Senegal and

included Colinian prayers.

**New Zealand:** Novena well received and used in all Wellington communities; Provincial Chapter started with a celebration of Fr Colin; in 2021 plans for wider circulation to all confrères, Sisters and laity.

**Oceania:** Colin material sent to sector and other leaders, for use with communities province-wide; positive



Gambia. Colin material distributed at parish Mass on Nov 15; seminarians encouraged in Colin research and devotion.

**Asia:** Enthusiastic involvement of young aspirants, with displays in public community areas; novena translated into Cebuano and used daily leading to Nov 15.

**Canada:** Novena material distributed to all members of the province and to SM Sisters; special appreciation from the Provincial Council with encouragement for even more initiatives; people came to the *Sanctuaire Beauvoir* daily for Mass and the novena; daily posting of the novena to the Internet; some text adaptations made for use with laity.

**General House:** Novena included daily with Evening Prayer and on weekends at Midday; Mass on Nov 15; prayers at the Colin icon.

**Mexico:** Three major communities used the novena; forthcoming Provincial Chapter will include Colin commemoration; formation community posted novena and daily Colin reflections to the Web; Zoom Mass

feedback from many quarters, including senior confrères.

### **Other sharing:**

**Justin Taylor** commented on John Larsen's encouragement to 'share our treasure'; the 'very short life' of Fr Colin should be available in 2021, in English, French and Spanish; a person involved with the Lyon Diocesan report on the Cause remarked that 'Jean-Claude Colin is certainly canonisable'.

**Ben:** Vice-Postulator, Bernard Thomasset, will meet with Lyon Cause personnel shortly; the documents will then be taken/sent to Rome.

**Alois** has seen a 'comic/cartoon' on Colin/Marists; will send Ron a copy.

**Ron Nissen:** I gave a lengthy\* report on present and proposed pages on the Colin website. Proposals included a possible 'News' page; expansion of 'Seeking Graces'.

(\* too lengthy! Apologies, confrères. This bulletin is in part a response to the fair critique of my Zoom leadership.)

## The Colin calendar

This remains one of the most obvious ways of keeping the person of Jean-Claude Colin before the eyes of our confrères and people daily.



400 hard copies of the 2021 calendar were distributed Society-wide in six languages to CCN, unit leaders, formation communities and in response to website requests. Most were in A5 format, with larger copies for community use.



In the spirit of 'value-adding' each calendar was accompanied by a print of the Tollet painting detail, the 'On Whatever Distant Shore' leaflet biography, 'Founder & Father' or 'Who is Jean-Claude Colin' summary, and laminated bookmark intercessory prayer card.

An 'iceberg tip' of positive responses indicates that the Calendar and enclosures were well received.

It's not too late for further copies, by the way. International postage from Australia has improved in recent months.

The electronic 'flipbook' version is on the website in six languages. (*Home Page* and *Resources/calendars*).

I have been thinking of an 'easy-print', 'do-it-yourself' calendar for 2022. And maybe an interactive electronic version. At the moment these are the 'hard basket' but still conceivable. If you have a local expert, or are one yourself, let me know, please.

And if you have significant local dates you think could help the calendar, send them along.