

32. By a gracious choice

Far, far away from everything, on the tiny "Island of Pines" to the south of New Caledonia, Sr Marie du Bon Secours wrote to Fr Yardin, mission procurator in Lyons, of her privilege in belonging to the family of Mary.

... Well, here I am belonging to the family of Mary. Yes, what happiness! But how unworthy I recognise myself of such a favour. However, since Jesus and his divine Mother have deigned to adopt me as their humble servant, I hope with the help of grace, and the gracious assistance of your fervent prayers, to work generously to acquire the virtues lacking in me to merit being recognised as a true daughter of Mary! What can I tell you of my gratitude for such a favour?

Unpublished Letter of Sr Marie du Bon Secours (Île des Pins)
to Fr Yardin (Lyons), August 29, 1859, (Letter 8, §9)

During our formation years we learned that the Society of Mary came from Mary's own wish and that she had given it her name. "...in this last age of impiety and unbelief, it is my wish and the wish of my Son, that there be a Society, one consecrated to me, one which will bear my name, which will call itself the Society of Mary and whose members will call themselves Marists, to battle against hell". (Words of Jean-Claude Courveille).

A long time after our profession we probably discover that, like all Marists, we ourselves have been chosen by Mary and mysteriously called to live the Gospel according to her spirit, and that by entering her family we have committed ourselves to forming a personal relationship with her. It is beautiful to see here one of our elder sisters expressing her gratitude for being chosen by Mary.

