

## 7. Begin a new Church

*The following words of Fr. Colin were spoken at table in the dining room of the motherhouse of Puylata in Lyons, on September 27, 1846. They are part of a lengthy conversation on various subjects and noted down by Fr. Gabriel-Claude Mayet.*

SEPTEMBER 27, 1846  
CONVERSATION IN THE REFECTORY

**Let us take courage, and work hard, but always 'ignoti et occulti'. Let us keep away from those who rely on a 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.**

[OM 632,1] E. Keel, p. 63

These words of Colin remind us that we are all called to help the Church to renew itself. The new Church Colin wanted was a Church purified of greed, purified of lust for power, purified of pride and ambition, a Church empty-handed, and simple and direct when she speaks. With Colin, Marists believe that the truth of the Gospel proves itself primarily where it is put into practice. Marists today feel inspired by Colin's desire for a new Church. They realize that just as in Colin's time, so also today new questions have to be resolved with new answers and new needs met with new forms of creative generosity.

