



**First Marist  
Community in Italy  
20-07-1950**



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## *First Marist Community in Italy (1950)*

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Following the request of the Marist Fathers, the first Community of the Marist Sisters in Italy was founded to have the help of the Sisters at their College in Castiglion Fiorentino (Arezzo).

The Superior General, Mother Marie Joseph Suchet, and her Council accepted the request to open a community in Italy.

On 20th July 1950 at 9 p.m., four professed Sisters left Massabielle - St. Prix (France) for Italy to form the first Community.



The first founding Sisters of the Community were:

Sr. Bernadette, Superior (French nationality),

Sr. Maria Celina, Sr. Maria Letizia and Sr. Maria Cristina, (Italian nationality).

The ministry entrusted to them was first of all to serve the young people of the Minor Seminary and the Fathers' Apostolates, taking care of their needs (in the kitchen, laundry, ironing, clothing repairs) and also to collaborate with the Parish of Castiglion Fiorentino.



Marist teenage students and seminarians  
always on the rise

The departure from France, St Prix, was not easy from the start, not least because of their amount of luggage. They were accompanied by Mother S. Paul in a van to the Gare du Nord (Paris).

When they arrived at the station in Paris, the train for Italy had already left, they had to wait an hour until the arrival of another train that took a longer and more

complicated route, passing through Geneva (Switzerland), where they were able to admire the famous lake of the same name and the surrounding scenery.

The journey turned out to be very long. They arrived late at Florence Station, where they missed their connection to Castiglion Fiorentino due to the lengthy customs procedure involving document and luggage checks.

On arrival at Castiglion Fiorentino Station, they were welcomed by the Fathers (including Father Necci) and some boys from the College, who had been waiting for them since 12 noon that day under a 35-degree sun.

They arrived on the 5.30 p.m. train and were helped with the transport of their luggage in a pushcart.

The Fathers pulled the cart while the sisters pushed it uphill for a kilometer and a half until they reached the house prepared for them.

Mrs. Maggi, mother of the future Sr. Giovanna, had prepared a succulent lunch and after regaining their strength, the Sisters worked to get settled in the house.

The first aspirants to the Marist life were welcomed into this Community, and for the Sisters it was an occasion of encouragement and joy that gave hope for the future of the Italian Region.

The aspirants to the Marist life stayed with them for about six months and then went to the formation House in France, Massabielle - St. Prix.



First aspirants to Marist life