

## Chapter Day 15



A very early breakfast and on the bus by 6:45am and the Chapter group arrived in Rome by 8:35am, to attend the Papal Audience which was to take place in the piazza of St Peter's. The size of the crowd assembling and the security arrangements made the entry into the piazza quite a task. After being re-directed several times the group was one of the last to get to the 'sagrata' the raised area close to the papal dais. Following the proclamation of the gospel in a wide variety of languages, in a strong, clear voice the Pope challenged all present to be 'missionaries of hope'. In the greetings which followed the Pope addressed a special greeting to the 'Chapter of the Society of Mary', and he encouraged us to "promote our charism in a spirit of service and fidelity to the Church".

At the end of the audience the Chapter with its secretaries and the representatives of Marist Laity gathered on the steps of the sagrata where they were joined by the Pope. Fr John Hannan introduced Fr John Larsen to him. Pope Francis asked Fr Larsen where he intended appointing his predecessor.

### From the Pope's Speech

Joy is the sure sign of true Christian hope, for we know that evil will not have the upper hand, and that God's love, revealed on the cross, will ultimately triumph. Certainly, there are times when the gift of hope proves costly. This is the case with so many of our fellow Christians who presently experience persecution, and with the martyrs in every age. Their witness inspires us to continue to hope in Christ's promises. As missionaries of hope, may we rejoice in God's saving power, never lose heart, and help others to look to the future with confidence.



Returning to Nemi, The Chapter re-gathered at 5pm to acknowledge Michel Macquet and Bev McDonald, the representatives of Marist Laity, and to thank them for their contributions to the Chapter.

Fr Paul Martin presided at the evening Mass, where the new Superior General handed to each person a pair of rosary beads that had been given by the Pope .