



Caring for and generating Marist Life Celebrating the Commencement of the Year of Marist Vocations



20 May 2022

I. Motivation

Reader 1:

Last June 25th, in my letter to the Provincials and District Leaders, I announced the **Year of Marist Vocations**. I expressed it in this way: “we propose that the Institute dedicate a year to take up the theme of Marist vocations again with vigour and enthusiasm through promoting a renewed culture of vocation. The proposal is to carry it out from **20 May 2022 to 6 June 2023**. These dates bring to mind the history of our origins when there was an impressive surge in vocations between 1822 and 1823, after the great vocation crisis suffered by the Institute just a few years after its beginning. Marcellin’s experience 200 years ago, with great faith and trust in God and Mary, can be a key point of motivation for this initiative”.

I encourage all the Administrative Units to reflect and make a plan to live this year, being a Global Marist Family, as a time to strengthen our identity and charism. We would like to offer our witness and visibility to the new generations. We would like to accompany young people in reflecting on their own vocation at the same time making known the possible ways to live Champagnat’s charism in our days, as brother or as lay Marist (*Excerpts from the Message of Br. Ernesto Sanchez, Superior General, on January 2, 2022*).

II. Lighting of the Candle and Invocation of the Holy Spirit

The candle is lighted while **the Veni Sancte Spiritus**
(Come, Holy Spirit) is being played.

III. Prayer of St. Marcellin Champagnat

(Together, in a contemplative way)

Mary, this is your work. It is you who have brought us together, in spite of the opposition of the world, to procure the glory of your divine Son; unless you come to our aid, we shall perish and like a lamp without oil become extinguished. But, if this work perishes, it is not our work that fails; it is yours, since you have done everything for us. We therefore rely on your powerful protection, and we shall count on it always. O Good Mother, preserve us, multiply us, sanctify us. Amen.



IV. Learning from St. Joseph:

Reader 2:

In Saint Joseph (Patron of the Universal Church), God recognized the heart of a father, able to give and generate life in the midst of daily routines. Vocations have this same goal: to beget and renew lives every day. The Lord desires to shape the hearts of fathers and mothers: hearts that are open, capable of great initiatives, generous in self-giving, compassionate in comforting anxieties and steadfast in strengthening hopes. The priesthood and the consecrated life greatly need these qualities nowadays, in times marked by fragility but also by the sufferings due to the pandemic, which has spawned uncertainties and fears about the future and the very meaning of life. Saint Joseph comes to meet us in his gentle way, as one of “the saints next door”. At the same time, his strong witness can guide us on the journey (*Excerpts from the Message of Pope Francis during the 58th World Day of Vocations (April 2021)*).

V. Moment of Silence

With soft music in the background

VI. Sharing in Small Groups

- A. **Motivation:** The 22nd General Chapter invited us to “*rediscover the original passion that inspired us to be Marists*”. In this way, we can bear witness to the continuing relevance of the Marist charism. (Goal No. 1, Year of Marist Vocations).
- B. **Points for Reflection and Sharing**
1. Call to mind the moment when you decided to be Marist. Relive the time, the place, the persons involved, the circumstances.
 2. What feelings are evoked in you as you recall this part of your journey?
 3. What do you feel thankful for?
- C. **Dynamics**
1. Journal writing for those who can.
 2. In the pieces of paper that you received earlier, write the **key words** of your answers to the questions above.
 3. Go into **small groups of 4** for the sharing. The length of time will be determined by the facilitator.



VII. Contemplation

1. Each one is invited to place the pieces of paper on which they have written the key words **around the plant** in their midst.
2. The group is then invited to contemplate on these words while “**Ubi Caritas**” is being played in the background.

Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas, Deus ibi est.

VIII. Gospel Reading:

Reader 2:

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

John 15:5, 7-8

IX. A moment of silence

1. We invite each **to dream of the future**. What **fruits** do we wish to harvest after the Year of Marist Vocations? You may write in your journal.
2. Afterwards, the leader asks those who may wish to do so to share **a word or a phrase**.
3. This part can be concluded with these words: **Let us keep these dreams in our hearts as we journey together during this Year of Marist Vocations.**

X. Intercessions

Leader: Ever faithful God, we are grateful in a special way for the charism received through Marcellin Champagnat. It has enriched the life of the Church and continues to do the same in the lives of so many Marists today. (*Rule, No. 95*). Lord, hear us.

Lord, Hear our prayer.

1. Thank you for the many generations of Marist Brothers, who, in serving all around the world, have given their lives for the evangelisation of children and young people. (*Rule, No. 95*). Lord, hear us.
Lord, Hear our prayer.

2. Thank you for the growing number of others called to be Marist, men and women called by the Spirit to live their Christian vocations as Marists, in communion with their brothers, and sharing together the one same mission. (*Rule, No. 95*). Lord, hear us.
Lord, Hear our prayer.

3. We are grateful also for the presence of the Spirit who calls us constantly to be converted anew, and who never ceases to surprise us by opening new horizons within the Institute. (*Rule, No. 95*). Lord, hear us.
Lord, Hear our prayer.

4. Help us create an environment where young people can grow and fulfil themselves fully, in tune with Your dream for them. Give us a fresh perspective on how to walk with them as they discern the direction of their lives and develop as well-integrated persons. (*Homes of Light, p. 112*). Lord, hear us.
Lord, Hear our prayer.

5. Teach us to include parents in the process of vocational discernment; make us generous in offering them information and a friendly ear and in remaining in touch. May a healthy relationship develop among parents and children, so that careers and other choices can be accepted together. (*Homes of Light, p. 116*). Lord, hear us.
Lord, Hear our prayer.

6. Accompany us in our journey as passionate and fully committed Marists of Champagnat, responding to the Spirit's call to be a Marist face among the young, especially among the poor. May we grow in communion, co-responsibility for Marist life and mission, structures, and processes. (*Homes of Light, p. 126*). Lord, hear us.
Lord, Hear our prayer.

Other intentions...



XI. The Lord's Prayer

XII. Prayer for the Year of Marist Vocations

All: Heavenly Father, You answered the prayer of Marcellin Champagnat two hundred years ago and delivered the Institute from seeming sterility by blessing it with a prodigious surge of growth.

Choir 1: Throughout our history, you have done wonderful things through the men who dedicated themselves as Little Brothers of Mary and the lay men and women who have widened the tent to share the Marist charism and mission.

Reader IV: We praise and thank you for this close collaboration to make Jesus and Mary known and loved by children and young people in places where we are present.

All: Lord of the harvest, we find ourselves today in a turbulent world where the founder's dream continues to be relevant more than ever.

Choir 2: Help us to care for and generate Marist life. Keep us rooted in the original passion that inspired us so that we can boldly respond to the emerging needs of our times.

Reader V: Like Marcellin, we pray today that you increase our number by guiding to our Institute those whom you call.

Choir 1: Show us the men and women you have chosen and enable us to accompany them in nurturing their Marist vocation.

Choir 2: Inspire them to take up this journey of love for and service to the least favored as Marists of Champagnat.

All: Mary, our Good Mother, we believe this is your work. We are confident that you will not allow the lamp to be extinguished for lack of oil. Accompany our prayers to your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

XIII. Concluding Song: Sub Tuum Praesidium

Sub tuum praesidium confugimus, confugimus. Sancta Dei Genetrix, Sancta Dei, Genetrix.

Nostras deprecationes ne despicias, ne despicias in necessitatibus nostris,
Sub tuum praesidium confugimus, confugimus. Sancta Dei Genetrix,
Sancta Dei, Genetrix.

Sed a periculis cunctis libera nos semper, Virgo gloriosa et benedicta
Sub tuum praesidium confugimus, confugimus. Sancta Dei Genetrix, Sancta Dei, Genetrix.

