



# MASS FOR THE FEAST OF ST. MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT AND THE CLOSURE AND CONTINUITY OF THE YEAR OF MARIST VOCATIONS

EXCERPTS FROM THE READINGS AND PRAYERS OF THE  
EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATION AT THE GENERAL HOUSE (ROME), JUNE 6, 2023

## I. INTRODUCTION

Happy feast day, everyone. Welcome to this celebration.

Today, we celebrate the Feast of our Founder, St. Marcellin Champagnat, who reunited with his Creator on this day 183 years ago. Also today, we bring to conclusion our celebration of the Year of Marist Vocations, which commenced on May 20, 2022, the birth of the Founder.

We honor our Founder, St. Marcellin, to whom God, through the Holy Spirit, first gave the gift of Marist life, the gift which he shared with the first brothers under the auspices of the Good Mother, the gift that was cared for and generated for over 200 years by countless brothers and lay men and women, the gift which we inherited and are blessed to live today.

We want this day to be, first of all, an occasion to give thanks to God for our own vocation; but most especially to give thanks for all that we have experienced during this year: for having rediscovered the original passion that inspired us to become Marists; for having been able to deepen and appreciate the diversity of Marist life and the different vocational paths; for becoming more aware of our task to foster vocation in young people and to promote a vocational culture; and, finally, because we can boldly proclaim, "there is great value in being Marist today".

When we speak of the conclusion of the Year of Marist Vocations, it does not mean that we are finishing a project, but as at Pentecost, a new chapter is beginning, under the responsibility of each one, of each community, of each group and of each apostolic and educational center in the respective administrative units, in which, guided by the Spirit, all of us give continuity to the initiatives that light a new fire in our Institute to live and promote the Marist vocation.



*cuidar e gerar*  
**VIDA MARISTA**  
ANO DAS VOCAÇÕES MARISTAS  
20 MAIO 2022 - 06 JUNHO 2023

*prenonos soin et suscitons la*  
**VIE MARISTE**  
ANNÉE DES VOCACTIONS MARISTES  
20 MAI 2022 - 06 JUIN 2023

*caring for and generating*  
**MARIST LIFE**  
YEAR OF MARIST VOCATIONS  
20 MAY 2022 - 06 JUNE 2023

*cuidar y generar*  
**VIDA MARISTA**  
AÑO DE LAS VOCAIONES MARISTAS  
20 MAYO 2022 - 06 JUNIO 2023

The invitation to care for and generate Marist life remains, for vocation animation continues to be an important and vital task for Marist life and mission today and in the future, in which all Marists of Champagnat are called to participate, in the service of the Church and especially of children and young people.

May these little sparks (*igniculus*) that have emerged during the global celebration of the YMV, the inspiration that has moved our minds and hearts and all that we have perceived continue to impel and animate our personal, community and institutional journey.

## II. COLLECT



Holy Father, you have revealed the commandment of the new law through your Only Begotten Son, and shown us how to put it into practice by the inspiring example of Saint Marcellin; grant us, we pray, the grace to persevere in loving all our brothers and sisters as he taught, and to lead our world to the knowledge of the truth of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.

## III. LITURGY OF THE WORD

### A. First Reading: 1 Corínthians 12:4-11

<sup>4</sup> There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. <sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

<sup>7</sup> Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. <sup>8</sup> To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, <sup>[a]</sup> and to still another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>[b]</sup> <sup>11</sup> All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

### B. Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 127

**R./ Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.**

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.

Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest,  
eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.

Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.  
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children[a] of one's youth.

Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!  
He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

### C. Second Reading: Rule of Life 95

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. Thank you for the many generations of Marist Brothers, who, in serving all around the world, have given their lives for the evangelization of children and young people. Thanks, too, 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. 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. Grant us courage and generosity so that we may be signs of your mercy and tenderness among the poor young people of today. May we be faithful to our mission of making Jesus Christ known and loved. Mary, woman of action, make our hands and feet move 'in haste' to others, bringing them, as you did, the charity and love of your Son Jesus and the light of the gospel to the world. Amen.



### D. Gospel: John 15: 5-8

<sup>5</sup>“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. <sup>6</sup>If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

## IV. PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Brothers and sisters, Marcellin Champagnat witnessed for us that he who remains in Jesus and Jesus in him will bear much fruit and that whatever he asks for will be given to him. With

great confidence, we now express our intentions and the intentions of the Church, knowing that our Good Mother is interceding for us, as we say:

Lord, hear our prayer.

1. That all Christians, especially all of us present here, be attentive and responsive to God's call to life, to commitment to the Gospel values, and to the unfailing trust in Providence. Let us pray to the Lord.
2. That young people who are discerning their vocation, may always have the courage and the generosity of heart, to allow themselves to be guided by the Spirit. Let us pray to the Lord.
3. That brother formators in the different stages of formation, may always practise consistency of life in order to give a good witness to the young people whom they are accompanying. Let us pray to the Lord.
4. That the journey of the International Forum of the Marist Lay Vocation may bear the fruits that we dream of and that we be faithful to the breaths of the Spirit received during this process. Let us pray to the Lord.
5. That vocation animators may be endowed with creativity in promoting Marist life and that they may have the audacity to venture into the unfamiliar. Let us pray to the Lord.
6. That in our mission as Marists, we will always: be concerned for the needs of others, be in haste to share the Good News and be always seeking out those who are dispossessed and marginalised. Let us pray to the Lord.
7. That Br. Abraham Kang of the Province of East Asia who professes his final vows today, and all other brothers who are making their first or perpetual vows these days, may live their Marist life fully and truly become apostles of youth as Marcellin was. Let us pray to the Lord.

Heavenly Father, hear the prayers of the Marist family gathered here today on the Feast of St. Marcellin Champagnat. Grant that we may remain always steadfast in caring for generating Marist life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## V. PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION



Nourished with the Body and Blood of your Son, we pray, O Lord, that we who celebrate the great work that you have accomplished in your Church through Saint Marcellin, may be strengthened by the power of this Sacrament and inspired to undertake ever greater apostolic works. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.