



MARIST COMMUNITY

1. SCENARIO DEFINITION

We entrust our lives, our vocations to Mary, together with her as the children we want to be, she who takes care of us, who guides our steps, trusting in her as Father Champagnat trusted in her, we begin this moment. You predispose us with a joyful heart, listening to the following song....

2. SONG: Mother (Together with you Mary) [YouTube](#)

Now the community can spontaneously present their requests, joys, or congratulations.

3. PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

(Gospel reading of the day)

4. In a moment of silence, we let ourselves be permeated by the message of the gospel, what does it invite us to? As we listen to the following song.

5. SONG: [Lord Jesus have mercy - Eduardo Meana - YouTube](#)

6. A CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEFINITION OF MARIST AND LAY COMMUNITY LIFE

It is surprising to discover that in some parts of our Institute the greatest doubt about community life lies precisely in its definition,

in fact a great challenge facing many Institutes today. We know that

Marcellin had a special regard for community life. In this regard, we find the following request in his Spiritual Testament: "Dear Brothers, I ask you with all the affection of my soul and for all the affection that you have for me: do everything possible to ensure that holy charity is always maintained among you. Therefore, the virtue of charity constitutes the foundation of every community that claims to be inspired by the spirit of the Founder. What would be the best definition of community for our Institute today? Perhaps the simplest definition would be to identify it as "a loving relationship". First of all, living with our brothers challenges you and me to create and nurture a loving heart. Without that, we may survive, but we will never flourish as a community. What do I mean by the phrase "a loving heart"? The answer is found in a story entitled "The Gifts of the Magi," probably already familiar to some. A young couple was going through great financial difficulties, and the only



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possessions of any value they owned were Jim's gold watch and Della's beautiful brown hair. One Christmas, wishing to give Jim a gold chain for his watch, Della sold her beautiful hair. Jim, for his part, deciding to give her an exquisite tiara she had once admired in a shop window, sold his watch. The author concludes his account with the following comment: "The Magi, as we know, were wise men - extraordinarily wise men - who brought gifts to the baby Jesus in the manger. I have just recounted here the seemingly pathetic chronicle of a pair of fools who, without realizing it, sacrificed to each other the most precious treasures they possessed. I would like to address an exhortation to contemporary wise men: of all those who have offered their gifts to anyone, these two people were the wisest. They are the Magi. We wish to cultivate a loving heart, so we must ask ourselves, "What are we willing to sacrifice for the good of the community of which

we are a part?" It is easy to point out the aspects of community life that bother us. What is difficult is to recognize that it is the fact that we are called together by God as a group that transforms our life in community into grace.

Now free your mind from other worries and meditate on the following questions:

1. What has been your experience of community life during these years as Champagnat Marists?
2. Reflect for a few moments on the situations that have contributed most significantly to your human and spiritual growth and to your zeal for the mission...

7. CLOSING PRAYER

8. OUR FATHER

9. AVE MARIA

**Saint Marcellin Champagnat
Mary our good Mother....**