

“Emptiness and Fullness”

Prayer for the Year of Marist Vocations: “*To Rediscover the original passion that inspired us*”

Invocation of the Light:



Glory to God who has shown us the light!

R: Lead us from darkness to light

Lead us from sadness to joy

R: Lead us from death to new life

Glory to God who has shown us the light!

Opening Hymn: *Where Two or Three* (Michael Herry fms) [[link below*](#)]

Where two or three are gathered in my name know I am with you, I am with you.
Where two or three are gathered in my name know I am there to be with you.

Introduction:

Gathered together as Marists, we give thanks for our vocation journey, with all its twists and turns.

Sometimes we experience a fullness, that our cup is full, sometimes we know the pain of an empty cup and wonder where it might all be leading. But the fullness, the sweetness, carries us forward.

R: God leads us from darkness to light, from death to new life!

We pray that as we see the bigger picture, the road behind and God’s Road of surprises ahead of us

we might come to a deeper appreciation of our call as Marists, and God’s prompting us to truly and courageously become Marist, as religious Brothers and Lay together.

R: Glory to God who has shown us the light!

Reflection: *Emptiness and Fullness*

#1 by Henri Nouwen: Emptiness and fullness at first seem complete opposites. But in the spiritual life they are not. In the spiritual life we find the fulfillment of our deepest desires by becoming empty for God. We must empty the cups of our lives completely to be able to receive the fullness of life from God. Jesus lived this on the cross. The moment of complete emptiness and complete fullness become the same. When he had given all away to his Abba, his dear Father, he cried out, "It is fulfilled" (Jn 19:30). He who was lifted up on the cross was also lifted into the resurrection. He who had emptied and humbled himself was raised up and "given the name above all other

names" (Phil 2:7-9). Let us keep listening to Jesus' question: "Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink?" (Mt 20:22). [pause]

#2 by Joan Chittister OSB: In this new world, at this new moment, in this new time, a little band of religious vocations, a little band of religious congregations, a loud-voiced band of religious prophets: small of size, great of heart, determined of conscience and dedicated to courage is clearly more necessary than ever. It is not true that Religious Life is dying! Religious Life is simply being forced to become religious again! [pause]



* **Where Two or Three** [Download MP3 from this link:](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/52422a6fe4b06209130d02bd/5b050228575d1fad81a4da82/5b06258370a6ad2e493af9fa/1527138665220/13+Where+two+or+three.m4a)
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/52422a6fe4b06209130d02bd/5b050228575d1fad81a4da82/5b06258370a6ad2e493af9fa/1527138665220/13+Where+two+or+three.m4a>

Response: Psalm 67:

Antiphon: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.



O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help.

Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him.

Glory be to the Father... As it was in the beginning ...

Antiphon: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Reading: Jeremiah 31:12

They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion; they will be radiant over the

bounty of the LORD – the grain, new wine, and oil, and the young of the flocks and herds. Their life will be like a well-watered garden, and never again will they languish.

Litany Response:

When you are empty, I come to bring you joyful new wine.

R: My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my saviour

When you are feeling 'down', I come to raise you up. **R/.**

When you are ill-at-ease, I come to heal you. **R/.**

When the eyes of your mind cannot see, I show you the path ahead. **R/.**

When the ears of your spirit hear only silence, I bring you laughter and music. **R/.**

When your heart forgets your passion as you undertook the journey, I bring you warm memories. **R/.**

How is the Lord speaking to us – through our prayer and support of each other, and through sharing our stories. What stories might these reflections prompt in you? Let us share some sacred silence, or even a story or two together...

Our Father:

Final Prayer:



Disturb us, Lord, when we might rest in the abundance of Your blessings
R/. ... but forget to thirst for the wine of true and lasting joy.

Disturb us, Lord, when having fallen in love with time,
R/. ... but we have ceased to dream for eternity.

Disturb us, Lord, to become truly religious again, as Brothers and Lay
Marists

**R/. ... in the simple and beautiful ways that you call us forward,
together.**

And like a well-watered garden, continue to bless us, Lord,
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Mary our Good Mother **... pray for us.**

St Marcellin Champagnat and the First Brothers **... pray for us.**

And may we always remember **... to pray for one
another.**