

PRAYER "OF THE GLOBAL MARIST FAMILY FOR HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES".

0.- MOTIVATION

We want to spend some time in prayer. We want to spend time with God, we want to "take care of God". Brother Ernesto, Superior General, tells us in the circular Homes of Light that "to take care of God is to seek to make Him transparent with our lives". Linked to this "caring for God" is caring for ourselves, and caring for others.

As human beings, as Christians and as Marists we cannot forget and leave aside those of our brothers who are in need. The XXII General Chapter spoke to us of walking as a Global Family, as well as calling us to respond boldly to emerging needs.

We propose to you a quiet time of prayer, of approaching the reality of God, and the reality of the world. A time of encounter with God and with the community.

We leave a minute of silence before starting.

1.- GREETING: We begin the prayer "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen".

2.- GOSPEL READING (Parable of the "Good Samaritan" - Lk 10,25-37)

An expert in the Law of Moses stood up and asked Jesus a question to see what he would say. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to have eternal life?"

Jesus answered, "What is written in the Scriptures? How do you understand them?"

The man replied, "The Scriptures say, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind.' They also say, 'Love your neighbors as much as you love yourself.'"

Jesus said, "You have given the right answer. If you do this, you will have eternal life."

But the man wanted to show that he knew what he was talking about. So he asked Jesus, "Who are my neighbors?"

Jesus replied:

As a man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, robbers attacked him and grabbed everything he had. They beat him up and ran off, leaving him half dead.

A priest happened to be going down the same road. But when he saw the man, he walked by on the other side. Later a temple helper

came to the same place. But when he saw the man who had been beaten up, he also went by on the other side.

A man from Samaria then came traveling along that road. When he saw the man, he felt sorry for him and went over to him. He treated his wounds with olive oil and wine

and bandaged them. Then he put him on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next morning he gave the innkeeper two silver coins and said, "Please take care of the man. If you spend more than this on him, I will pay you when I return."

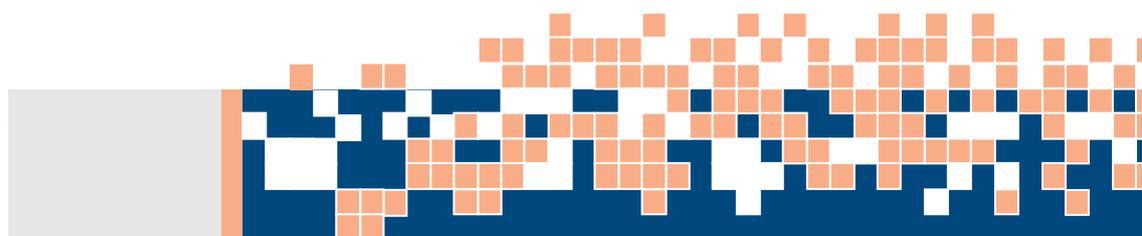
Then Jesus asked, "Which one of these three people was a real neighbor to the man who was beaten up by robbers?"

The teacher answered, "The one who showed pity."

Jesus said, "Go and do the same!"

3.- TIME FOR REFLECTION (AND SHARING)

Here are some hints for personal prayer. It is also possible to take time to share our prayer and reflection.



A.- From the Gospel. We are presented with a parable that we have heard many times, we have prayed it, we have tried to make it come alive... Yes, our life as Christians, as Marists of Champagnat, takes on meaning from this position. We cannot look the other way, we cannot live "alone" guided by our obligations. We are called to take a step forward, to act as the Good Samaritan did, to live as Jesus of Nazareth did.

The Samaritan offers a rapid yet complete response. The Samaritan sets aside social stereotypes, sets aside differences of race, religion, status... An invitation for us to do the same.

B.- About Solidarity. Solidarity is born from the need of the human being to meet and care for those in need. Therefore, a solidarity marked in our DNA as human beings, sustained by Christian values and with the Marist style. A solidarity that is lived in the relationship with the other, with those who are far away and also with those who are closest to us, with those we know and with those we do not yet know.

- An integral and comprehensive solidarity, beyond mere assistance ("fleeing from paternalistic approaches", said the XXII Ind GC), that promotes the development of people in their fullness.

- It is a solidarity lived and realized from the joy of the Gospel.

- A solidarity that "smells" of the small Marist virtues, which are not seen but which impregnate with their delicious fragrance everything they touch.

- An inclusive solidarity lived in communion and collaboration with those who dream and fight for a more just, more human and more Marist world.

C.- From Marist Documents. The XXII General Chapter reminds us of the sense of "global charismatic family" as characteristics of all the Marists of Champagnat. This means "acting as a global body". To this we are called, to develop our vocation of helping others from a global sense, and from there "to respond boldly to emerging needs".

In Brother Ernesto's Circular, he reminds us of this sense of family when he tells us that "the mission begins with community living and witnessing", with a clear invitation to put ourselves "to work to collaborate in what we can, serving others" as Mary did during her life.

4.- INTENTIONS AND THANKSGIVING

After the time deemed appropriate, the prayer is continued with a moment to share our personal intentions. We propose that this be done by saying a Hail Mary after each intervention, but another formula could be used.

We present to the Lord our intentions and our thanksgiving.

OUR FATHER

After the time deemed appropriate, the prayer is continued by praying together the Lord's Prayer.

6.- FINAL PRAYER: OPENING OF HEART AND HANDS

God the Father, good and merciful, we Marists of Champagnat recognise that all life is a gift and a blessing. We thank you for your generous love. Encourage us to be honest and upright people, worthy of proclaiming the Gospel, in our awareness and fundraising campaign for the benefit of our brothers and sisters in need.

Help us to always take advantage of the spaces and activities that save lives. Give us openness to listen to the needs around us. Give us a joyful spirit, and an eagerness to involve others. Give us hopeful imagination and creative vision, recognizing generosity in even the smallest gift. Give us strong and unwavering hearts in times of discouragement. Give us confident hearts, knowing that the fruits of the activities will be realized long after we are gone. Give us faithful hearts, deeply committed to Your kingdom on earth. Let us feel Your presence so that we know that we are never truly alone. Always remind us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters, we do for You. "We bend our shoulders to the task and play our part to the best of our ability in serving others". We ask this through Jesus and in union with the Holy Spirit.

Mary, our Good Mother; intercede for us.

Saint Marcellin Champagnat, pray for us. Amen.

