
CELEBRATION OF THE
25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH
OF BROTHER
BASILIO RUEDA



INTRODUCTION:

Today, we celebrate 25 years of Brother Basilio's death.

It is an opportunity to thank God for his life and to renew our Marist journey. Brother Basilio was one of the most listened to and well-balanced leaders of the post-conciliar years, not only in the Institute of the Marist Brothers, but in the Church religious life as well.

Brother Basilio certainly did not have to live through a pandemic; his example, however, can guide us in braving through the challenges of our time. We look up to him in the following:

First, in valuing the friendship of the "marvelous companions" that the Lord has allowed us to encounter along the way.

Second, in renewing our passion for living by seeking and realizing the Kingdom of God.

Third, in being able to share with and heal the suffering of others.

Let us then take this moment of prayer as an opportunity to reflect on our own lives and what it means to be Marists of Champagnat today.

CARRY ON

(<https://bit.ly/3oXwT0r>)

Carry on God's calls
Keep on believing in what we can do
Let's clap for faith
And shout for love
Celebrate God's unconditional love
Carry on God's calls
Keep on believing in what we can do
Let's clap for faith
And shout for love
Be gifts of persons in changing the world

Teaching the new Montagne
Journeying together in Marist vocation
Open our hearts and spread the seeds
We serve God, we held and lead
We can be beacons of hopes
Working as creative bridge builders
Let's make a difference
Be Champagnat's servant leaders

With God's love, we're saved
Lifting those who were forsaken
Living out Marist ways
Make Jesus known and loved
We are not warriors
But we can be living saints
We have the armor of faith
And the blazing boots of mission

As third century Marist in communion
We weave this turbulent world with compassion
Living life
Being prophetic witnesses of tender mercy

MESSAGE OF BROTHER JOSÉ BASILIO RUEDA GUZMÁN,
RECORDED AT THE HOSPITAL DEL CARMEN, IN DECEMBER 1995,
DURING HIS FINAL ILLNESS.

Addressed to an esteemed group of friends, to whom he wanted to send a greeting and reply to their letters, which were by then unanswered.
[...] They say that a true friend, somebody with whom a profound friendship is shared, can only be one, or few. For me this is entirely false. I certainly have a number of friends to whom I am currently addressing this message, and whom I regard as my brothers, my own brothers and my dearest friends. [...] I want to return now to this general group of great friends. [...]

I have been very, very happy these years. Obedience has been for me the foundational path of my whole life. Experience has taught me that through the mediation of Superiors and other complementary mediations, the Lord has led me on unusual paths, even a little abnormal for a common Marist Brother, to work outside or within the Institute with all affection, but always under the sign of obedience and under the command of Superiors.

I have lived without a personal work project. My job was to take up the mission and surrender to it with all my soul and with all my heart. When I remember the many places where I have been, the unforgettable places, the most diverse countries, the poorest or richest social situations, the comfortable houses, very comfortable in that I was staying in a suite or the little rooms where I even had to build a bathroom upon my arrival, because there was none. I felt at home everywhere, I felt the affection and love of the brothers and I gave them everything my heart and strength could give.

Today I am seeing the practical realization of one thing that Brother Leonidá said to me many years ago, when he was still alive, upon observing the rate I was going. He told me: “Vous êtes en train de brûler votre vie par les 2 bouts, sa chandelle par les 2 bouts” (“You are burning your life on both ends, your candle on both ends”). And he sent me a whole page of Life magazine, in which there was a kind of candle, quite thick, with the two ends lit. I replied, perhaps a little foolishly: that it has always been my ideal, to burn my life for Christ and for my Congregation, even if it is consumed in less time than I would normally live. Did I do well? Have I done wrong? It doesn't bother me. I put everything in the hands of Christ Jesus, in the hands of the Father, in whose hands I feel profoundly calm, grateful, and full of praise. I know that there are no better hands than those of God and in those hands, the hands Christ offered, I have put myself.

I have been in the hospital 20 days today. There were complications and dysfunctions that resulted to my kidneys being blocked. The doctors are doing everything they can to revive at least one of them; one remedy being dialysis. I do not know the outcome yet of this whole process; it seems to be improving. Perhaps my health will be restored, partially, if not totally. But still, if the Lord wanted to guide things the other way, I accept it wholeheartedly. I have given him countless thanks these days for the gift of life, for the gift of health, for the gift of his life in Jesus Christ, for the vocation to the Marist Congregation. I must say that I have been very, very happy. What I give thanks most of all, is for the Paschal Mystery of Christ, that mystery of death and resurrection that envelops us and welcomes us in our own sufferings, in our own illnesses and which truly unites them to the glory of the Lord and for the good of the Church.

It is useless to say that I have offered all this for the Church, for all who suffer in the world, and for what we see on television day after day: nonsense wars, absurdities, unimaginable cruelty. Having witnessed all these, one realizes that what he suffers is nothing in comparison. I have asked the Lord to do his holy will in me, asking nothing but only his holy will for me. And I have begged him that I may keep

alive the gift of faith, the gift of hope, of surrender and the gift of love, not on my merit, for the more I see my life, the more I find in it emptiness, so much weakness. I believe that all, or almost all of them, though involuntary, are real and very present, with all limitations. But I know that it is not in me nor in my merits that I should trust, but purely and exclusively in the blood and death of Jesus Christ the Lord. I have also offered this a lot for my friends, this group to whom I am writing and them who will receive a letter, which I would have wanted to be absolutely personal, in the sense of being able to enter into personal and individual details of the moments lived in the letters they sent me, of a whole series of things. This, however, has not been possible, nor will it be possible this time. May this letter at least reach them to tell them that I have not forgotten them and that I have them very much present in my prayer and in my heart.

(Brother Basilio Rueda Guzmán, Guadalajara, Jal., December 1995)

MOMENT OF MEDITATIVE SILENCE

Echoing/Sharing of word or a phrase that struck us.

THANKSGIVING

R/ Lord Jesus, today we thank you,

- Lord, today we thank you for the presence of Brother Basilio among us, because he has shown us your face as a Loving Father to all.
- Because he has inspired us, as Marcellin Champagnat did with the first Brothers.
- For his circulars on prayer, obedience, community life, and a space for Mary, so full of doctrine, experience, and teachings.
- For having communicated to the Brothers your clear message in favor of the young, the poor, the missions, the community and the Church.
- For the time dedicated to the little ones, the young, the old, for the letter, the phone call, the visit, or the cordial greeting, the unexpected fraternal gesture, all of which encourage us to be close to each other.
- For having come to our house to listen to us, to share and to dialogue.
- For the example of his life of intense prayer, spread and shared with everyone.
- For his creative fidelity that kept him in God's presence.
- For his immense thirst for adoration and contemplation.
- For having preserved the Marist Patrimony and L'Hermitage, our mother house.
- For having given himself, to the point of exhaustion, to the young people in the houses of formation.
- For having been our older brother and for remaining so today through his intercession.
- For teaching us to live with deep hope and trust in Jesus in the midst of difficulties.

Lord Jesus, increase our confidence in the intercession of your servant, Brother Basilio, so that the Church will soon recognize his virtues, declaring him "Blessed". We ask this through the intercession of Mary, our Good Mother. Amen. (Based on a text by Edouard Blondeel)

PRAYER

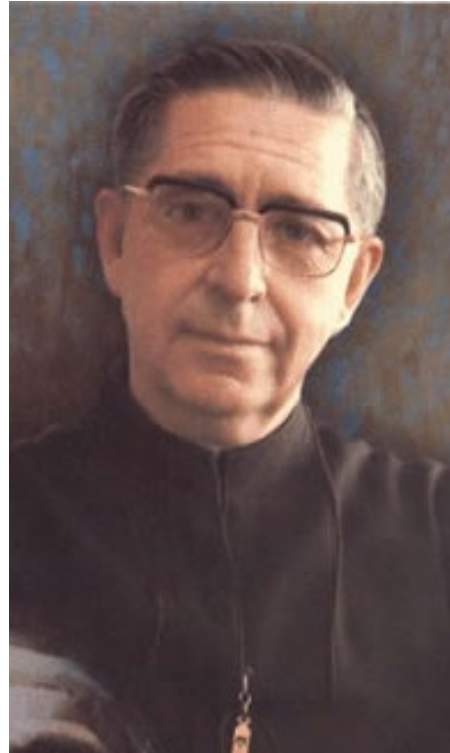
God, our Father,
you have granted our brother Basilio
an extraordinary heart,
a penetrating intelligence
and a great passion for your kingdom.
His heart has been a generous source of friendship.
His intelligence knew how to solve problems.
His passion for your kingdom has renewed our
Marist family.

We thank you, God, our Father,
for the precious gift that Basilio was
for the Church, for his many friends and for us.
Allow us to call him to our aid
when doubt hovers over our lives,
when illness, problems
or the years cause us anguish.

At this moment we ask you, in a special way, for ...

Mary, our good Mother,
You to whom Basilio dedicated one of his most beautiful circulars,
intercede for us.

May our prayer glorify you, Father
Through your Son Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit. Amen.



WEAVING LIFE

(http://old.champagnat.org/shared/music/TejiendoVida_EN.mp3)

I carry patterns on my own way
moments and faces that
invite me every day to weave my life.

I carry my dreams and challenges
lightning the lights
and reasons to dress up reality.

I will search for Jesus' footsteps
watching his entire life
To follow his paths that leaves
signs of love for all of us.

**WEAVING LIFE, KNITTING
NEW STORIES
MIXING COLORS, HERE,
TOGETHER AND NOW
WEAVING LIFE, MANTLES
THAT SHELTER
SEWING THE FUTURE FOR A
WHOLE NEW WORLD.**

The new tomorrow is embroidered by
With a Mother
full hope and gratuity.

Just like textures of emotions
We shape the new
That we Marists will carry out

Washing all the dust on barefoot
carry everybody's burden
Sewing real seams and stitches
wanting nothing in return.

With strength, we have to walk
Through your paths that drive towards
A new beginning full of joy.
You must spread the tenderness
And the passion of your heart
To be a witness for the world!

ALL TO JESUS FOR MARY, ALL TO MARY FOR JESUS

BRIEF TIMELINE OF THE LIFE OF BR BASILIO RUEDA GUZMÁN

1924	Birth in Acatlán de Juárez, Jalisco, Mexico.
1933-1939	Studies at the Marist Primary School of the City of Guadalajara.
1942	Entered Marist Formation in Tlalpan, D.F.
1943	Habit-taking at the Novitiate House, Tlalpan, D.F.
1944	First Profession of Religious Vows as a Marist Brother, Tlalpan D.F.
1945-1946	Teacher training in the city of Querétaro.
1947	Primary school teacher at the Queretaro Institute.
1948-1953	Teacher at the Mexico Elementary and Secondary Institute
1950	Perpetual Profession in Mexico City.
1953-1956	Professor and Director of the Marist Aspirancy House, Querétaro.
1957-1961	Professor at the Centro Universitario México, Mexico, D.F. Completed his Master's in Philosophy at UNAM. Publication of the book, "Ser y Valor", Editorial Progreso.
1961-1965	Team member and director of the Movement for a Better World in Quito, Ecuador.
1965	Deputy Director of the Second Novitiate in Sigüenza, Spain.
1966-1967	Director of the Second Novitiate in Sigüenza and El Escorial. Delegated by the Province of Central Mexico to the XVI General Chapter
1967	Elected Superior General of the Marist Brothers
1976	Re-election as Superior General
1985	Sabbatical Year. Back to Mexico. Promoter of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family. Master of Novices of the Province of Central Mexico.
1990	Director of the Program for Novice Masters in Rome, Italy.
1991-1996	Master of Novices of the Interprovincial Novitiate of Mexico
1996	DEFINITIVE EASTER AND RETURN TO THE FATHER'S HOUSE.
2004	Beginning of the diocesan process of the cause.
2015	Closure of the diocesan process.
2017	Start of the suppletory process
2019	Closure of the suppletory process
2019	Decree of approval of the diocesan process.
2020	Start of the process of _____ in the city of Rome.

Note:

As of today, January 21, 2021, the cause of Brother Basilio has been introduced in Rome. It has begun with the drafting of the Positio to prove his heroic virtues and that he can be declared "Venerable".

More information about Brother Basilio Rueda: <https://champagnat.org/es/ser-marista-2/santos-maristas-2/h-basilio-rueda/>

If you receive any favor or grace through the intercession of Brother Basilio Rueda, please let us know: gestion@fms.it

This prayer is for private use by Marist communities and fraternities.
