



Mass of Christian Burial

Brother Seán D. Sammon, FMS

November 26, 1947 – September 9, 2022

Superior General 2001-2009

Brother:

Your chief contribution to the life of the Church is to be on mission as a brother. Your vocation itself is a ministry within the Church; a reminder to the wider community about the importance of fraternity and our fundamental call to be a community of brothers and sisters in service.

At the banquet in the Reign of God, a brother takes his place as one who serves the table, caring especially for those thought to be most insignificant.

By putting on the apron of brotherhood, your specific vestment in the liturgy of life, you join your service to the mission of God.

(Wherever You Go: The Marist Brothers Rule of Life # 70)

GREETING AND OPENING RITES:

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: *And with your spirit.*

SPRINKLING WITH HOLY WATER

In the waters of baptism, our brother, Seán, died with Christ and rose with him to new life. May he now share with him eternal glory.

PLACING OF THE PALL

On the day of his baptism, Seán put on Christ. In the day of Christ's coming, may he be clothed in glory.

PLACING OF THE PROFESSION CROSS: Brother Daniel O'Riordan, Provincial

On the day of his perpetual profession, Seán received this cross as a sign of his commitment as a Marist Brother. We recall the words of our founder, St. Marcellin Champagnat:

"Oh, what a consolation we have, when about to appear before God, to remember that we have lived in the favor of Mary and in her Society."

ALL: We, Seán's Marist Brothers and Marist Family, thank God for his life and presence among us. We commend him to Jesus, Mary, and Marcellin.

OPENING HYMN: ALLELUIA! SING TO JESUS

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus! His the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph, his the victories alone;
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus out of ev'ry nation has redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now.
Alleluia! He is near us, faith believes nor questions how;
Though the cloud from sight received him, when the forty days were o'er,
Shall our hearts forget his promise, "I am with you evermore."

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

Text: Revelation 5:9, William C. Dix (1837-1898)

Tune: HYFRYDOL. 8 7 7 7 D; Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

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A decorative graphic of the word "Alleluia!" written in a blue, flowing cursive script. The letters are connected and have a slight shadow, giving it a three-dimensional appearance. The exclamation point is also in the same style.

FIRST READING: Sirach 44: 1, 10-15

Now will I praise those godly men, our ancestors, each in his own time:
These were godly men whose virtues will not be forgotten;
Their wealth remains in their families, their heritage with their descendants;
Through God's covenant with them their family endures, their posterity for their sake.

And for all time their progeny will endure, their glory will never be blotted out;
Their bodies are peacefully laid away, but their name lives on and on.
At gatherings their wisdom is retold, and the assembly proclaims their praise.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: SHEPHERD ME, O GOD

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.



God is my shepherd, so nothing I shall want.
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love.
I walk by the quiet waters of peace.

Gently You raise me and heal my weary soul.
You lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth.
My spirit shall sing the music of your name.

Though I should wander the valley of death,
I fear no evil, for you are at my side.
Your rod and your staff, my comfort and my peace.

Text: Psalm 23; Marty Haugen. Music: Marty Haugen. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted with permission under One License #A-700000

SECOND READING: Romans 14:7-9

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Celtic Alleluia

GOSPEL: Luke 10: 25-37

There was a scholar of the law* who stood up to test him and said, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?" He said in reply, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." He replied to him, "You have answered correctly; do this and you will live."

But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead.



A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise, a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.

But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him.

The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.'

Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?" He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

HOMILY

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: In the words of St. Paul, "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, what God has ready for those who love God." Seán believed this and loved God, and we as fellow believers, join him in these prayers:

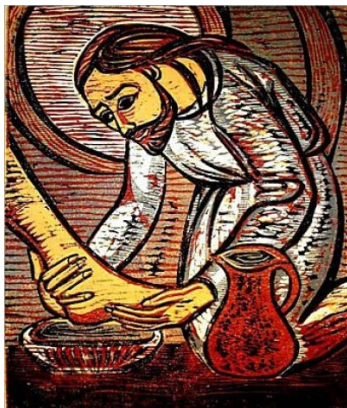
Our response will be: ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

- Our brother, Seán was given the promise of eternal life in Baptism: Lord give him communion with St. Marcellin Champagnat and all our Marist saints forever, we pray to the Lord:
- For the Marist Brothers and all members of Seán's family who deeply mourn his loss, we pray to the Lord:

- For all the Marist Brothers and lay Marists throughout the world who were influenced by Seán's life and witness, we pray to the Lord:
- For Pope Francis, and all world Church leaders, for our Superior General, Brother Ernesto and the Marist Brothers' mission throughout the world, we pray to the Lord:
- For an increase of vocations to the Marist Brothers and to Church and lay ministry, we pray to the Lord:
- For all of us gathered here today; we give thanks for Seán's life and his willingness to share his talents with us. May he rest in peace. We pray to the Lord:

Celebrant: Father in heaven, you are the source of life, and you have sent your Son into the world that we may have that life in abundance. Help us to live that we may come to the fullness of that life in heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

OFFERTORY SONG: THE SERVANT SONG



Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey; we are trav'lers on the road;
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow 'til we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

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COMMUNION SONG: BE THOU MY VISION

Be Thou my vision, oh Lord of my heart,
All else be nought to me save that thou art.
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true word,
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord.
Thou my great Father, thine own may I be;
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always.
Thou and Thou only first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won.
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun.
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Be Thou My Vision. Text: Irish, ca. 700, verified by Mary Elizabeth Byrne, 1880-1931; tr. Eleanor H. Hull 1860-1935.
Music harmonization: from the revised CHURCH HYMNARY, 1927 Copyright © Oxford University Press. Reprinted with permission under One License #A-700000



FAREWELL AND FINAL COMMENDATION

Celebrant: Trusting in God, we have prayed together for Seán, and now we come to our last farewell. There is sadness in parting, but we take comfort in the hope that one day we shall see him again and enjoy his brotherhood and friendship. Although we disperse in sadness, the mercy of God will gather us together again in the joy of his kingdom. Therefore, let us console one another in the faith of Jesus Christ.

Into your hands, Father of mercies, we commend our brother, Seán, in the sure and certain hope that, together with all who have died in Christ, he will rise again with him on the last day.

We give you thanks for the blessings which you bestowed upon Seán in this life: they are signs to us of your goodness and of our fellowship with the saints in Christ.

Merciful Lord, turn toward us and listen to our prayers: open the gates of paradise to Seán and help us who remain to comfort one another with assurances of faith, until we all meet in Christ and are with you and Seán forever.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

Eternal rest grant unto Seán, O Lord,
All: *And may perpetual light shine upon him.*

May Seán's soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
All: *Amen.*

EVER FOREVER (The Marist Brothers Hymn to Mary)

Ever forever, we will sing to Mary,
who in her love bids us come to her shrine.
Ever forever, Mother highly blessed,
list to our praise which sings thy name sublime.

Waking at morn, we'll call to thee, our Mother.
Thy name shall lead our spirits all the day.
And when Night's angel soft shall close our eyelids,
e'en then our homage to thee we will pay.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: WE WALK BY FAITH

We walk by faith and not by sight: no gracious words we hear
Of him who spoke as none e'er spoke, but we believe him near.

We may not touch his hands and side, nor follow where he trod;
Yet in his promise we rejoice and cry, "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief, and may our faith abound;
To call on you when you are near, and seek where you are found.

That when our life of faith is done in realms of clearer light,
We may behold you as you are in full and endless sight.



*We Walk by Faith. Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.
Tune: SHANTI, CM; Marty Haugen b. 1950, © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc.
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Champagnat



Brother Seán D. Sammon, FMS
November 26, 1947 – September 9, 2022

Brother Seán D. Sammon, FMS died on Friday, September 9, 2022 at Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, New York. He was 74 years old and in his 56th year of Marist religious life.

Seán Sammon was born in Manhattan, New York City on November 26, 1947. He was the son of Matthew and Mary Bradley Sammon. After attending St. Vincent Ferrer elementary school in Manhattan, he began studies in 1961 at St. Agnes Boys High School, also in Manhattan which was staffed by the Marist Brothers. The following year he continued his high school education at the Marist Juniorate in Cold Spring-on-Hudson, NY. Upon graduation in 1965, he entered St. Joseph Novitiate in Tyngsboro, Massachusetts and pronounced his first vows in 1967. He then went to the Marist Brothers' Scholasticate at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY and graduated with a BA in Psychology in 1970.

Brother Seán began his ministry as a Guidance Counselor at St. Agnes Boys High School in New York City. While he was at St. Agnes, in addition to his duties at the school, he received an MA in Psychology from the New School for Social Research and then an MA in General Psychology from Fordham University. He made his final profession of vows in 1981. In 1981 he also received a PhD in Clinical Psychology from Fordham University and worked in ministries as a licensed psychologist in New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts.

In 1987, Brother Seán was elected as Provincial of the Marist Brothers' Poughkeepsie Province. During his term as Provincial, he served as President of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, (CMSM). In 1993, at the General Chapter of the Marist Brothers in Rome, he was elected to an eight-year term as Vicar General and at the 2001 General Chapter he was elected Superior General of the Institute of the Marist Brothers of the Schools. He served as Superior General until 2009 during which time he oversaw the work of 4,000 Brothers ministering in 79 countries. During this period, he established a relationship between the Marist Brothers and the United Nations Human Rights Council, oversaw the expansion of the Marist Brothers in Asian countries following the wishes of the then Pope John Paul II in the *Mission Ad Gentes* program and was

invited as the only Brother to serve on the Vatican's Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

Throughout his life, Brother Seán was a writer and scholar. He wrote several books on psychology, religious life and spirituality. He received awards for these efforts from the Catholic Press Association and the National Religious Vocation Conference's Outstanding Recognition Award. He was also the recipient of the St. Edmund's Medal of Honor from the Edmundite Fathers and Brothers for his contributions to the Catholic Church.

After finishing his term as Superior General, Brother Seán returned to the USA and in 2010 went to Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY as a member of the Board of Trustees and Scholar in Residence at Marist. There he continued his work with young people as well as contributing to the development of many programs at Marist. In 2017, he was also appointed as Novice Director for the Marist Brothers' USA Province.

In addition to his many experiences, contributions and accomplishments, Seán was a simple, loving and caring person. He deeply loved his family and his fellow Marist Brothers and had a gift of showing that care and concern to all who knew him. He will be deeply missed, yet those who knew him will be forever grateful for his presence in their lives.

Brother Seán is survived by his brother, Brother Hank Sammon, FMS, his sister Moira Magro and her husband Michael, his niece Jessica, her husband Karn and grandnieces Michaela and Ava, his nephew Christopher, his wife Maria, grandnephew Michael and grandniece Mariella. He is also survived by his Marist Brothers.



*Oh, what consolation we have,
when about to appear before
God, to remember that we have
lived in the favor of Mary, and in
her own Society.*

St. Marcellin Champagnat