



Bicentenary of the Construction of the House of Notre-Dame de l'Hermitage

<https://champagnat.org/en/notre-dame-de-lhermitage-200-years/>

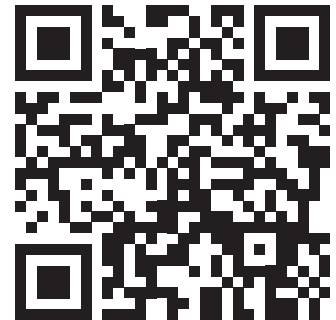
HERMITAGE 200

LA VALLA, HOUSE OF LIGHT L'HERMITAGE, SOURCE OF LIFE

Maurice Goutagny, fms
Marist epic story, July 2024

Yesterday, Saint Marcellin, you walked with us.
Already Brothers and lay, Marists of your heart,
Crossing the forests of Marlhes to La Valla,
To go to meet the people of Mount Pilat.

Filled with new dreams, kneaded with the Word
You welcome the poor, families, young people, orphans,
You restore the church, human relations;
Your heart on fire pushes you on the paths of stones
And you give the words so that others live.
The young people of your time lost the sense of life,
They seek in the dark a semblance of infinity.



[Video YouTube](#)



On these new paths you carry the gospel;
Paths sometimes of snow, or of golden broom;
On the edge of the road hidden violets
Which speak of your desire and your humility.
And one day you meet a young man with a wounded heart
Who reveals a new horizon to your heart.

Life then pushes you to seek friends,
And you make them Brothers, gathered in faith;
They look to Mary to better follow in her footsteps,
To announce Jesus Christ and to restore joy.

The family grows, a new La Valla,
House of light and beginnings;
Birth of life, at the sources of Pilat,
Already a few schools and communities,
Always with Mary, mother of Pity.





But you have to move forward, to do the work of the Lord
 Who invites you to go in haste, to look further;
 You take all the paths that lead back to the source,
 You walk in the mud, in the rain, under the sun;
 Your hands, your feet, your heart filled with your prayer,
 To go humbly and meet the misery,
 In the night, the silence and the shadow of the forests.

You often go by the Gier valley
 And you discover a place, the new Hermitage,
 Marist life is there that follows the course of the water.

It is there that you build the house of your brothers,
 Ocean of greenery, protected by the oaks;
 The water of life circulates, always in abundance,
 In the middle of the rocks, spiritual current,
 Life multiplied beyond the seas,
 universal current, to Jesus through Mary.
 House of Our Lady, a new Fraternity.

Today, you are here with us, every day,
 Carried by the current, like a river of life;
 The house of Hermitage, open to go beyond,
 The mission continues, Marists of Champagnat,
 Committed to this world, brothers and lay together.



The meeting in the Philippines to reflect about the future,
 To listen to the Spirit who speaks deep in the heart,
 And contemplate life in this changing world,
 To be for children the face of God,
 His infinite mercy, and tender heart.

Create new bridges, weave new links,
 Walk with the most deprived young people,
 To listen to God's call, to respond with urgency.

Today, you are here, doing the work of Mary,
 And to continue what was started,
 Living a new chapter of provincial life,
 Relying on the energy of the gift received from God
 To open the horizon, to take care of life.





Taking care of relationships within our families,
and our community life, listening to the heart.
Educating children to transform the world,
Protecting all the rights of children and young people
Taking care of people, of our common home,
Attentive to the well-being, to the happiness of each one.

Tomorrow, building yet another new Hermitage,
with you Marcellin, in simplicity;
Letting life and fraternity spring forth,
In the heart of this valley, the Gier, river of life,
Building your house, House of Our Lady,
Which becomes every day, a home for everyone,
Which becomes every day, a home for all.

