



Praying Our Way to the 23rd General Chapter

September 2024 — Called to Gather

Opening Prayer: *“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the water; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. “Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.” (Isaiah 55: 1-2)*

Help us, Loving Jesus, to ensure that, like Notre Dame de l’Hermitage, each of our Marist ministries, Marist communities, and individual Marist hearts may always be *‘A Home for All’* and a *‘River of Life.’* Amen.



SUNG INVOCATION — RUAH

Ruah, Ruah, Ruah, uuuhhh

Ruah, Ruah, Ruah, uuuhhh

Llenas la historia con tu luz
y el calor de tu presencia fiel.
Ante la duda, claridad,
en los logros, tu canción,
Ruah, Espíritu vital.

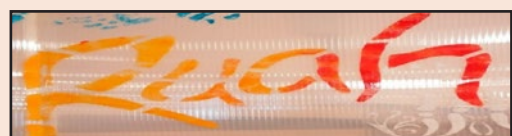
Te reconhecio quando estas
animando o amor em todos nos.
Sinto que caminhas ao meu lado.
Me convidas a avançar,
Ruah, Espírito de paz.

In every moment you are there;
my heart ponders your great kindness.
Always inspiring all I do,
making me proclaim my “Yes”,
Ruah, o Spirit of faith.

Tu es bien présent lorsque j’agis,
tu me pusses, toi, le souffle, aujourd’hui.
Tu dances dans ma vie, je le sais bien.
Ton sourire est créateur,
Ruah, tu es l’Esprit de Dieu.



Scan for the Song Recording



A Reading from Our Marist Sources

Letter of St. Marcellin Champagnat (210)

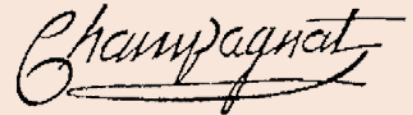
21st August 1838

My very dear brothers,

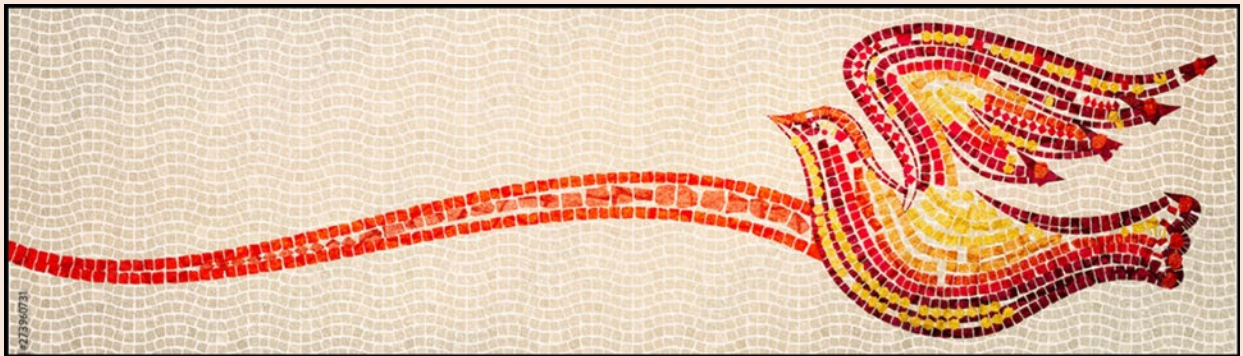
Our vacation, as in previous years, begins on 28th September. Come to the mother-house as soon as possible, to be at the annual retreat, which as you know, begins on one of the first days of October.

How happy I am to announce the end of, or rather, a bit of respite from, your demanding task. Come, all of you, to be reunited and warmed in the sanctuary which witnessed your becoming children of the most loving of Mothers. It will fill us with the sweetest joy to see you renewing yourselves in one and the same spirit and telling Mary that you all want to live and die under her patronage, after having faithfully kept the promise you solemnly gave her. It is in union with Jesus and Mary that my heart, pouring itself out affectionately, tells you, my very dear brothers, how much I love you. [...]

Yours in the Sacred Hearts,



Listening in Silence



A Reading from Sacred Scripture

Matthew 11: 25-30

At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

“All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Listening in Silence

Prayerful Sharing

What makes you feel connected to our Marist family? How do you welcome others?

Prayers of the Faithful

Response: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

- That the inspiration of the Hermitage may help us to create ‘**homes for all**’ so that we may invite others to experience a ‘**river of life**,’ we pray...
- That we may faithfully journey together as a global family united in a joyful communion that includes diverse states of life, we pray...
- That in making our own the spirit of the Hermitage, we may find renewed zeal to bring God’s word to the poor children and young people of today, we pray...
- That with discerning hearts formed by genuine openness to the Spirit, we may fully enter into the preparatory process of the 23rd General Chapter, we pray...
- That in all of this, we may be guided by Mary, our Good Mother, and our Founder St. Marcellin Champagnat, we pray...

For who or what else do we pray?



Remember, o most gracious Virgin Mary,
That never was it known,
That anyone who fled to your protection,
Implored your help,
Or sought your intercession was left unaided.
Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you
O Virgins of virgins, my mother.
Do you do I come, before you I stand.
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
Despise not my petitions,
But in your mercy, hear and answer me.
Amen.

Closing Prayer: Transform us Jesus, and send us as a global charismatic family, a beacon of hope in this turbulent world, to be the face and hands of your tender mercy. Inspire our creativity to be bridge builders, to journey with children and young people on the margins of life, and to respond boldly to emerging needs. Amen.

(from the Message of the XXII General Chapter, Rio Negro, Colombia, October 2017)

Salve Regina

St. Marcellin Champagnat... Pray for us!
Mary, Our Good Mother... Pray for us!
And let us remember... To pray for each other!