

## Praying Our Way to the 23<sup>rd</sup> General Chapter

December 2024 — Awaiting Christ's Coming

**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

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.

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.

Ruah, Ruah, Ruah, uuuhhh

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

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



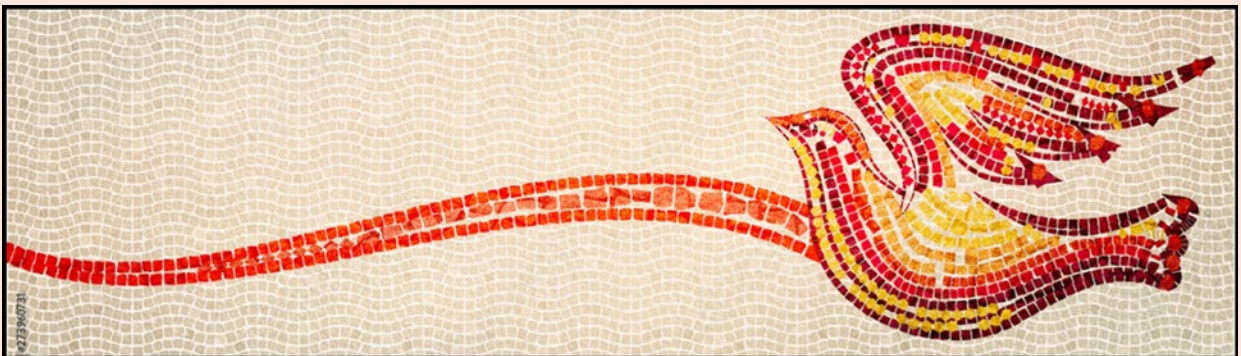
## A Reading from Our Marist Sources

### Water from the Rock (25-26)

The relationship of Marcellin to Mary was deeply marked by an affective and total trust in her, as the “Good Mother,” because it was her work that he undertook. He wrote once: “*Without Mary we are nothing and with Mary we have everything, because Mary always has her adorable Son within her arms or in her heart.*” This belief remained constant all through his life. Jesus and Mary were the treasure on which Marcellin had learned to place his own heart. This intimate relationship helped shape the Marial dimension of our spirituality. In our tradition, the phrase “Ordinary Resource” has come to encapsulate our constant reliance on Mary. The motto attributed to Champagnat by his biographer, *All to Jesus through Mary, all to Mary for Jesus*, captures this close relationship between the Son and the Mother and our Founder’s attitude of confidence in Mary, which we are invited to live.

We share in the spiritual motherhood of Mary as we take our part in bringing Christ-life to the world of those whose lives we share. We nurture that life in the ecclesial community, whose communion we strengthen through fervent prayer and generous service.

### Listening in Silence



## A Reading from Sacred Scripture

### Matthew 1: 18-24

Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

*Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,* which means “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

## Listening in Silence

### Prayerful Sharing

*How do you prepare for Christ's coming into our world?*

#### 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 by careful and prayerful elections held throughout the Marist Institute, we may be blessed with those Chapter delegates best able to lead us into the future, 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!