

Praying Our Way to the 23rd General Chapter

January 2025 — Renewal

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.

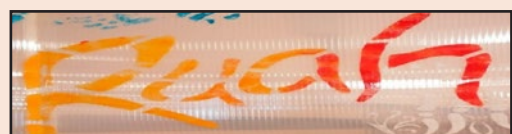
Tu es bien présent lorsque j’agis,
tu me pusses, toi, le souffle, aujourd’hui.

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

Fourvière: The Revolution of Tenderness – Letter of the Superior General (p. 9)

The kingdom of God, then, represents the alternative to the unjust society: it proclaims hope of a new life, affirms the possibility of change, gives shape to the ideal. For this reason, it constitutes the best news that can be announced to humanity, and, from Jesus on, God’s ongoing plan for humanity, to which he waits for a response. The fulfilment of that ideal is always a possibility.

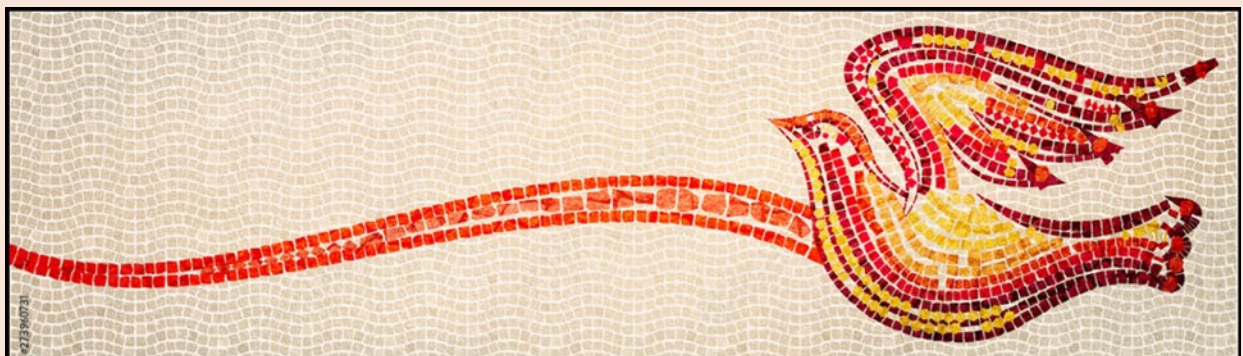
But for Jesus this is not simply a utopian theory. That is why the first thing he does after announcing the nearness of the kingdom of God, is to establish a community, to gather a group of men, simple people, fishermen from Lake Galilee (Mt. 4:18-22). He does not call them to live for themselves, nor to dedicate themselves to virtue separated from the world; rather, he calls them to a mission, and he takes it upon himself to prepare them for this: it is about forming a human group that makes visible and believable relationships in this new society. Jesus does not form a closed group, then, but an open group which continues to grow, attracting new people to the new way of living he is going to teach to these first disciples. His community must become the seed of a new humanity.

The normal way of living Christian faith, then, is to do so in community. The communitarian dimension is not just a “frame”, an “outline”, but an integral part of Christian life, of witness and of evangelization. (Pope Francis, audience of 15-01-2014). [...]

The best way to demonstrate that Jesus’ plan to transform the world and create a new human community was not just a pipe dream, is by means of a group – a Christian community – that shows that it is already possible to make the dream a reality: *See how they love one another.*

If we wish to follow Jesus, we are invited to do so in community. [...] More than a demand of our faith or a heavy burden, it is a wonderful gift that is given to us and one for which we should be extremely grateful. (6 June 2016)

Listening in Silence



A Reading from Sacred Scripture

2 Corinthians 5: 16-17

Consequently, from now on we regard no one according to the flesh; even if we once knew Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know him so no longer. So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.

Listening in Silence

Prayerful Sharing

What areas of our life are we called to transform and renew?

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!