



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

February 2025 — In Mary's Hands

**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

### **In Her Arms or in Her Heart – Circular of the Superior General (p. 17-18)**

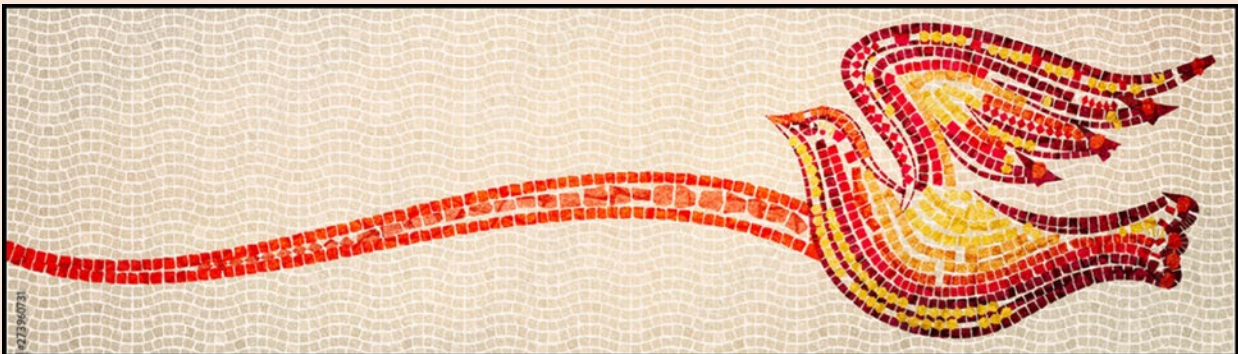
When the revolution of 1830 fueled tensions between Church and State, for example, the Founder appeared unshaken by all the upheaval. Asking Mary's special protection during a difficult time of political and social unrest, he introduced the Salve Regina as the first community prayer of the brothers' day, a custom that continues to the present. Likewise, in 1903 with God's grace our brothers responded to a perilous moment in our Institute's history with courage and ingenuity. Once again, their faith, willingness to rely on the mother of Jesus, and the virtues of humility and simplicity helped them win the day.

What will future generations say about you and me? That we did what was necessary to ready ourselves and our Institute for another century of evangelizing poor children and young people? [...]

The challenge, then, is clear: Do you and I have the courage, like Marcellin, to entrust the entire process of our renewal to the mother of Jesus and to accept the consequences of this decision?

(31 May 2009)

### **Listening in Silence**



## A Reading from Sacred Scripture

### **Luke 2: 41-51**

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart.

## Listening in Silence

### Prayerful Sharing

*What role does Mary play in your life?*

### 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 meaningfully engage 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!