



Praying Our Way to the 23rd General Chapter

April 2025 — Confusion and Hope

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 pousse, 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



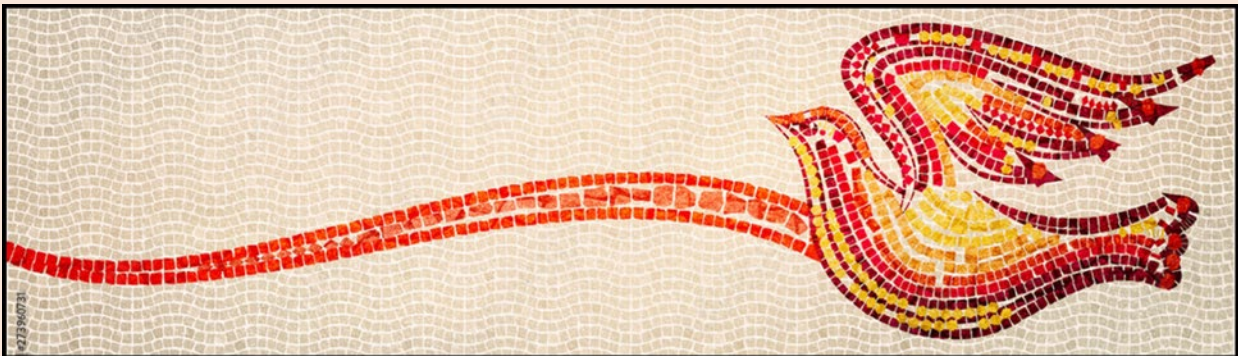
A Reading from Our Marist Sources

Homes of Light – Circular of the Superior General (p. 26)

In February 1823, Marcellin was lost in the snow, in the middle of a blizzard, with Br Stanislaus. He appealed fervently to Mary, “full of confidence, he knelt down beside the brother (now apparently unconscious), and said the Memorare with great fervor. After that prayer, he tried to raise the brother again and get him to walk. They had taken only a few steps, when they noticed a light shining in the distance; for it was night. They made in the direction of the light and arrived at a house, where they spent the night.”*Mary was for Marcellin a luminous flame who accompanied his every step throughout his life.

I wonder if, when crises arise among us and we find ourselves in the middle of a storm, we are able to see the light shining close by, in the form of some event or concrete person... Seeing the luminous flame in such a way, always keeping our eyes open: this is the miracle! This is how it was for Marcellin, thanks to his unshakeable faith in difficult moments when he never lost hope but pressed on, keeping his eyes open to spot the light.

Listening in Silence



A Reading from Sacred Scripture

Matthew 14: 22-29

Then Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When it was evening he was there alone. Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. “It is a ghost,” they said, and they cried out in fear. At once Jesus spoke to them, “Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.”

Peter said to him in reply, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.”

He said, “Come.”

Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus.

Listening in Silence

Prayerful Sharing

Where do you see the need for encouragement and hope in our Marist world today?

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!