



Praying Our Way to the 23rd General Chapter

June 2025 — Around the Same Table

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.



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A Reading from Our Marist Sources

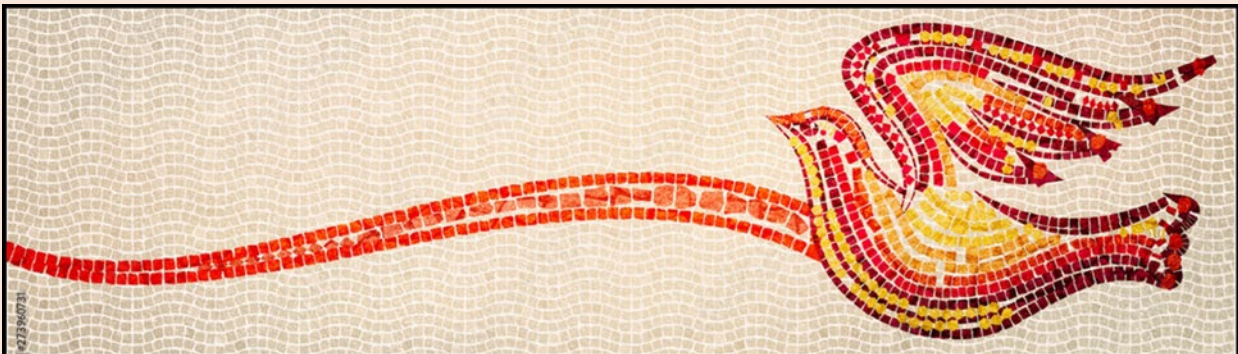
Gathered around the Same Table (45-47)

We Brothers and Lay people have received the gift of the charism from Marcellin. Therefore, we are partners in the Marist mission, and jointly responsible before God for carrying it out.

Joint responsibility involves all levels: decision making, planning, implementing and evaluation. We share whatever the diverse states of life are able to contribute to the shared mission.

The tasks involved in the mission are, for lay Marists, wider than the works of the Brothers. There are some who feel that, at a certain point in their lives they should be devoted completely to the care and education of their children. Others live the mission being employed in educational works that depend on the State or other communities of the Church. And there are some who share their life and their time in other fields. In this diversity, characteristic of the lay life, we cultivate communion and together we look for new paths for the expression of the Marist mission.

Listening in Silence



A Reading from Sacred Scripture

Matthew 13: 31-35

He proposed another parable to them. “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush, and the ‘birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches.’”

He spoke to them another parable. “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch was leavened.”

All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables. He spoke to them only in parables, to fulfill what had been said through the prophet:

I will open my mouth in parables, I will announce what has lain hidden from the foundation of the world.

Listening in Silence

Prayerful Sharing

How has the experience of communion between Brothers and Lay Marists affected you?

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!