



Praying Our Way to the 23rd General Chapter

September 2025 — The New Hermitage

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



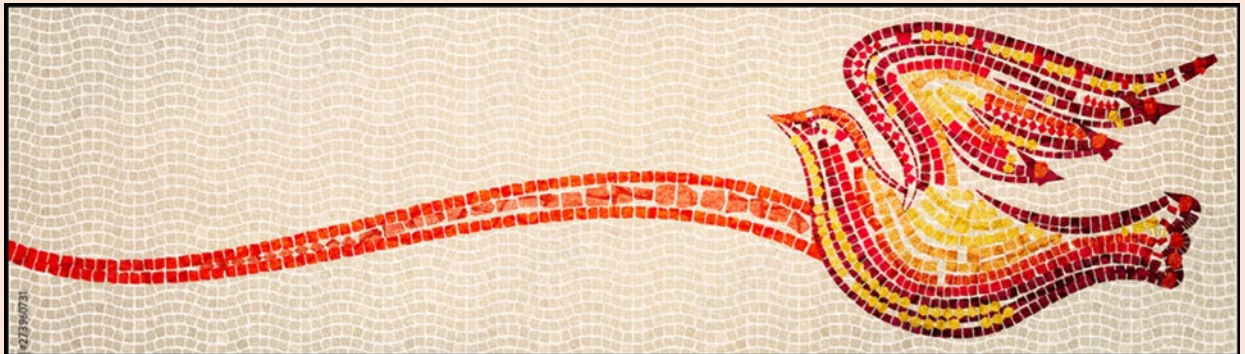
A Reading from Our Marist Sources

Let Us Reclaim the Spirit of the Hermitage! (p. 8-9)

Marcellin Champagnat constructed more than a building at Notre Dame de l'Hermitage; he also began to shape the character of his Little Brothers of Mary. He did so by lending his hand to the construction of the building and organizing our early brothers to work with him and the few professional builders he had hired. For more than a year they labored in the quarry from sunrise to sunset, prayed regularly, and shared a lifestyle that was austere.

With what result? Memorable events and stories became the threads in a tapestry that captured the spirit that surrounded our foundation: the evident protection of Mary, daily Eucharist, the "chapel in the woods", Marcellin and his brothers breaking rocks with energy and enthusiasm while one among their number read aloud a text on spirituality, simple food, and nights spent sleeping in the old barn. These and other elements shaped the relationships of those involved and gave unique form to our charism. What it meant to be Marist became clearer with each passing day. (6 June 2007)

Listening in Silence



A Reading from Sacred Scripture

Matthew 7: 24-29

Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock. And everyone who listens to these words of mine but does not act on them will be like a fool who built his house on sand. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. And it collapsed and was completely ruined.”

When Jesus finished these words, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

Listening in Silence

Prayerful Sharing

How do the proceedings of this General Chapter touch your own 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 fully enter into 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!