

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

October 2025 — Giving Thanks for the Chapter

**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

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.

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.

Ruah, Ruah, Ruah, uuuhhh

Te reconhecio quando estas  
animando o amor em todos nos.  
Sinto que caminhas ao meu lado.  
Me convidas a avançar,  
Ruah, Espírito de paz.

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

### A New La Valla – Convocation of the 22nd General Chapter (p. 9)

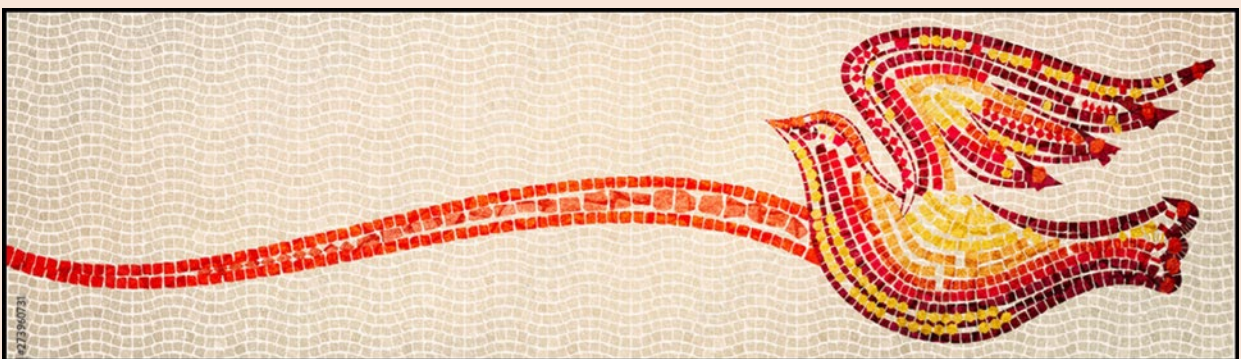
We go from beginning to beginning, through beginnings that have no end. A General Chapter offers us a chance to begin again. It is a wonderful opportunity, but it is also a painful one, because it implies abandoning land that we have known to enter new territory.

There is a thread that runs through Sacred Scripture, from Genesis to the book of the Apocalypse: get up and go, begin again. We hear it said in moments of great decision: to Abraham, to the people of Egypt, to the prophets who had become settled, to Jonah, Elijah to the great sinners, to Joseph for his flight into and return from Egypt, in the Acts of the Apostles ... the same is being said to each one of us today, and indeed to all Marists of Champagnat, Get up and go! This was, in fact, the explicit invitation of the 21st General Chapter: With Mary, go in haste to a new land!

I never cease to be amazed by the generosity and availability of so many people who joyfully agree to start afresh. I see it every year in Provinces and Districts when new communities, or new services or projects are set up. I see it when I receive letters from brothers or lay people ready to begin again wherever our world most needs them: young people, but others too who, in their old age like Abraham, make themselves available to leave their land and open themselves to the unknown.

A General Chapter allows us to take decisions of this kind, decisions that will affect us all, to move from being prisoners of what was done in the past or of simply managing what already exists, to allowing ourselves to be taken up by the ever-emerging newness of the Spirit. (8 September 2016)

### Listening in Silence



## A Reading from Sacred Scripture

### Mark 2: 21-22

“No one sews a piece of un-shrunk cloth on an old cloak. If he does, its fullness pulls away, the new from the old, and the tear gets worse. Likewise, no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the skins are ruined. Rather, new wine is poured into fresh wineskins.”

## Listening in Silence

### Prayerful Sharing

*What do the Calls of the 23rd General Chapter mean for you in your local reality?*

#### 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 in discerning our response to the Calls of the 23rd General Chapter, we may faithfully steward our mission and charism 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!