

MARIST PRAYER

TEXTS FOR SPECIAL DAYS

Marist Calendar and Table of Contents

January 10	The Anniversary of the Entrusting of the Missions of Oceania to the Society of Mary in 1836	5
February 28	The Anniversary of the Approval of the Constitutions in 1873	7
March 9	The Anniversary of the Letter in which Pope Pius VII Benignly Praises the Nascent Society in 1822.....	9
April 28	The Anniversary of St. Peter Chanel's Martyrdom on the Island of Futuna in 1841	11
April 29	The Anniversary of the Approbation of the Society of Mary by Pope Gregory XVI in 1836.....	13
June 6	The Anniversary of the Death of Blessed Marcellin Champagnat in 1840.....	15
July 23	The Anniversary of the Promise to Found a Society of Mary Made at the Shrine of Fourvière in Lyons in 1816	17
September 12	The Solemnity of the Holy Name of Mary.....	19
September 24	The Anniversary of the Election of the Venerable Father Colin as Superior General and the Religious Profession of the First Marists in 1836	21
November 15	The Anniversary of the Death of Venerable Father Founder in 1875	23
	Traditional Marist Prayers.....	25
	Salve Regina	27
	Sources.....	28

Feast of Saint Peter Chanel
April 28, 1997

Dear Fellow Marists,

This modest collection of texts is intended to help you celebrate in a more meaningful way some of the days that are special to all of us.

These texts can be used in several ways:

1. For personal prayer and meditation.
2. As readings and the final prayer in the celebration of the "Liturgy of the Hours."
3. As part of a prayer service, for example--
 - Hymn
 - Reading I
 - Decade of the Rosary
 - Reading II
 - Decade of the Rosary
 - Prayer
 - Traditional Marist Prayers and Salve Regina

4. For group reading, meditation, and prayerful faith sharing.

Or, use the texts in any way you find profitable. Perhaps this little booklet will inspire you to create something on your own. We are fortunate to have a wealth of scriptural and Marist texts to enrich and to deepen our prayer lives.

Fraternally,
The Editors
Marist Provincial House
Washington, DC

January 10

The Anniversary of the Entrusting of the Missions of Oceania to the Society of Mary in 1836

Reading I: Mk 16:14-20.

Later, as the eleven were at table, [Jesus] appeared to them and rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart because they had not believed those who saw him after he had been raised. He said to them, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents [with their hands], and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached every-where, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.

Reading II: CSM 1872, Article III, 269-270.

[From the 1872 Constitutions, the section on foreign missions.]

269. The Society's first duty with regard to these missions is indicated to us by our Lord Jesus Christ himself, when he says: *The harvest is great but the laborers are few; ask therefore the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest* (Mt 9:37-38). Since therefore it is we, though few in number, whom the Lord in his mercy has commissioned to reap the abundant harvest of Oceania especially, we must above all ardently and continually entreat this most kind Father to send new laborers to join us in reaping this harvest.

270. Our second duty is to spend ourselves and all we have with great love so that these sheep of Oceania and others, however lost and wild, which the Supreme Pontiff may entrust to the Society, may hasten to the sheepfold of Christ. Let no difficulties or deprivations, therefore, deter us from this enterprise, but let us trust in the Lord, praying to him daily for the conversion of sinners and unbelievers, following the example of the blessed Virgin, who prayed unceasingly for the redemption and salvation of the human race.

Prayer

God our Father, you will all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Send workers into your great harvest that the Gospel may be preached to every creature, and your people, gathered together by the Word of Life and strengthened by the power of the sacraments, may advance in the way of salvation and love. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

SAC, "For the Spread of the Gospel."

February 28

The Anniversary of the Approval of the Constitutions in 1873

Reading I: Lk 10:1-9.

After this the Lord appointed seventy[-two] others whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest. Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals; and greet no one along the way. Into whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this household.' If a peaceable person lives there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Stay in the same house and eat and drink what is offered to you, for the laborer deserves his payment. Do not move about from one house to another. Whatever town you enter and they welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God is at hand for you.'"

Reading II: FA, Doc. 396, §§ 3-5, pp. 441-442.

[From Father Colin's Farewell to the Society, delivered at the General Chapter, August 15, 1873.]

"I am leaving you, no doubt forever in this world...even now I am no longer of it, this world: my age, my infirmities! But you, Gentlemen, are in it and that is enough for me. You will carry on the work of the blessed Virgin. I am content to say how happy, how consoled the good spirit animating you makes me. I have seen the Holy Spirit in the midst of your deliberations, in your midst the blessed Virgin, the one who is to guide you into the harbor of salvation.

"Let us remember, Reverend Fathers, that we have acknowledged her, as indeed she is, our true and only Foundress, and that we have chosen her for our first and perpetual Superior.

"She, Gentlemen, is at the head of the bark which is bringing all her children to harbor. How could we perish under the banner of such a General? No! Let us

have faith.... Let us see the great goal that Providence destines you to. Our age is one of impiety. In the time of Noah all flesh had entered into the path of corruption; God commissioned Noah to build a bark to save the human race. In our day all truths are under attack. Well then, yes, God has prepared a bark. It is the bark of his Mother. It is up to you, Gentlemen, Reverend Fathers, to finish it, to consolidate it, this bark, to conserve its spirit. So let us march at the head of the faithful. There is your mission."

Prayer

Father, our source of life, you know our weakness. May we reach out with joy to grasp your hand and walk more readily in your ways. Grant this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

March 9

The Anniversary of the Letter in which Pope Pius VII Benignly Praises the Nascent Society in 1822

Reading I: I Cor 3:5-23.

What is Apollos, after all, and what is Paul? Ministers through whom you became believers, just as the Lord assigned each one. I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth. Therefore, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who causes the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters are equal, and each will receive wages in proportion to his labor. For we are God's co-workers, you are God's field, God's building.

According to the grace of God given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But each one must be careful how he builds upon it, for no one can lay a foundation other than the one that is there, namely, Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, the work of each will come to light, for the Day will disclose it. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire [itself] will test the quality of each one's work. If the work stands that someone built upon the foundation, that person will receive a wage. But if someone's work is burned up, that one will suffer loss; the person will be saved, but only as through fire.

Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for the temple of God, which you are, is holy.

Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you considers himself wise in this age, let him become a fool so as to become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the eyes of God, for it is written:

"He catches the wise in their own ruses," and again:

"The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain."

So let no one boast about human beings, for everything belongs to you. Paul or Apollos or Kephas, or the world or life or death, or the present or the future: all belong to you, and you to Christ, and Christ to God.

Reading II: FS, Doc. 5, p. 41.

[Father Mayet records a remark made by Father Colin at the end of 1837 which expresses a sense of history rare in a founder or foundress.]

In Rome, a religious spoke to him at length against new Orders, saying that people should join the older ones. When he had said his piece, Father Colin said, "Forgive me, Monsieur, if I do not share your opinion. Each age has seen new Orders come to birth. God has brought them to birth to meet current needs. Each Order has its vocation, its mission, its time. When we read the history of the Church we see that some have appeared in every age. Strictly speaking there is only one body which must always continue in existence: the Church, which has Jesus Christ as its head. The others acknowledge men as their founders, and do not have to endure, but fall when the need for which God created them has been met. If they do endure afterwards, they no longer

thrive with the dash and prosperity which blessed their early days. They fall back into the common run when their mission is ended.”

Prayer

Father in heaven, the loving plan of your wisdom took flesh in Jesus Christ, and changed our history by his command of perfect love. May our fulfillment of this command reflect your wisdom and bring your salvation to the ends of the earth. We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

MC, p. 55.

April 28

The Anniversary of St. Peter Chanel's Martyrdom on the Island of Futuna in 1841

Reading I: Mt 10:16-33.

[Jesus said,] “Behold, I am sending you like sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and simple as doves. But beware of people, for they will hand you over to courts and scourge you in their synagogues, and you will be led before governors and kings for my sake as a witness before them and the pagans. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say. You will be given at that moment what you are to say. For it will not be you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will hand over brother to death, and the father his child; children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to another. Amen, I say to you, you will not finish the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. No disciple is above his teacher, no slave above his master. It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, for the slave that he become like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more those of his household!

“Therefore do not be afraid of them. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father’s knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father.”

Reading II: EYPB, Doc. CL 41, §§ 1-2, pp. 205-206.

[From a letter to Father Antoine Séon.]

Futuna, October 12, 1839.

My very dear Father,

In spite of the ardent wish of our Reverend Father Superior General to comply with the holy eagerness of all the Fathers in the Society who long for the happy day when permission will be granted for them to come out here and dedicate their work and their life to the salvation of the heathen, the dire need that he has to maintain the work puts him under the painful necessity of having to refuse it for a while. The good Lord, who rewards good will wherever he might find it, will certainly take into account the generous sacrifice you would like to offer to him.

It is only prayer that can give life to our ministry to the poor savages. Without its help, all our efforts are sterile and in vain. Let those fervent souls concerned for the success of our feeble endeavors redouble, therefore, their earnest representations to the sovereign

master of hearts. This, perhaps, is a delusion on my part, but seeing things as they are, I think that the hour of grace has come for this little island that has been entrusted to me. You will, then, have the goodness to forgive me if I do not answer your letter line by line. I should like to run as quickly as possible to the natives disposed to listen to me. It is now twenty-three months since I came among them, but only a very short time since I have been able to speak their language in any way properly.

Chanel
Pro-vicar Apostolic S.M.

Prayer

Father, you called St. Peter Chanel to bring the light of faith to the peoples of Oceania and showed him how he had to suffer for the name of Jesus. May we, like him, recognize in you our inheritance and receive you as our reward for eternity. We ask you this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

MC, p. 68.

April 29

The Anniversary of the Approbation of the Society of Mary
by Pope Gregory XVI in 1836

Reading I: Mt 28:16-20.

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshipped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

Reading II: CSM 1872.

The Brief of Approbation
Omnium Gentium
GREGORY XVI, SOVEREIGN PONTIFF
IN PERPETUAL COMMEMORATION

The salvation of all peoples, the cause entrusted to us by the Prince of pastors and the Bishop of souls, impels us to be constantly vigilant to overlook nothing which may ensure that from the rising of the sun to its setting the Lord be praised and that the most holy Catholic faith, without which it is impossible to please God, may prosper and shine brightly all over the world. For this reason our paternal heart cherishes with most particular benevolence those ecclesiastics above all who, banded together in a society and faithful to their institute and vocation, by proclaiming God’s word and dispensing his manifold graces, exhort people unceasingly in sound doctrine and expend every effort and care to produce copious fruits of virtue and integrity in the vineyard of the Lord. We experienced no little pleasure when we learned that our beloved son Claude Colin and some priests of the diocese of Belley in France had, many years ago, laid the foundations of a new religious society of men, under the title Society of Mary. In fact, this Society is committed above all to increasing the glory of God and the honor of his most holy Mother, to propagating the Roman Church, both by the Christian education of youth and also by missions extending to the furthest shores of the earth. Now, since this Society, blessed by God’s favor, has spread in the dioceses of Belley, Lyons, and Grenoble especially, and because some of the Society’s priests have been sent by the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith to spread the Catholic faith in the southern islands of India, the priests of this same Society, concerned to see it develop and prosper all the more, have insistently begged us not only to deign to approve the Society by our Apostolic authority, but also to accord to the priests of the Society the right to elect a supreme moderator or superior general to govern them, and also to take simple vows. Since nothing is more important or desirable to us than to increase the glory of God and with all our strength to provide for the spiritual good of all peoples—having received the most weighty testimonies of our Venerable Brethren the Archbishop Administrator of the Church of Lyons and the Bishops of Belley and Grenoble, from which we have noted that through this Society many advantages and benefits may redound to the Christian community—with the advice of our most Venerable Brethren the Cardinals of the Holy Roman Church of the Congregation of Bishops and Regulars, we have readily and gladly

decided to grant their request.

...in virtue of our Apostolic authority and by means of this present letter, we hereby approve and confirm the Society or the congregation of priests of the Society mentioned above, and by the same Apostolic authority we grant to the priests of that Society the right to elect a supreme moderator or superior general and to freely and lawfully take simple vows. ...

Given in Rome, at Saint Peter's, under the Seal of the Fisherman, on the 29th day of April in the year of Our Lord 1836, in the sixth year of our pontificate.

Prayer

God our Father, keep us faithful to the teaching of the apostles, united in prayer and in the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart. We ask you this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

June 6

The Anniversary of the Death of Blessed Marcellin Champagnat in 1840

Reading I: Mt 18:1-5.

At that time the disciples approached Jesus and said, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a child over, placed it in their midst, and said, "Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me."

Reading II: BT, Doc. 176, pp. 97-99.

[From the Spiritual Testament of Blessed Marcellin Champagnat, May 18, 1840, less than three weeks before his death.]

In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

[1] Here, in the presence of God, under the auspices of the most blessed Virgin and of St. Joseph, wishing to make known to all the Brothers of Mary, the expression of my last and dearest wishes, I summon all my strength to make my Spiritual Testament according to what I believe most in accordance with the will of God, and most conducive to the good of the Society.

[3] Also, dear Brothers, I beg you with all the love of my heart, and by all the love you bear me, keep ever alive among you the charity of Christ. Love one another as Jesus Christ has loved you. May there be among you but one same heart and one same spirit. May people be able to say of the Little Brothers of Mary, as they did of the first Christians: "See how they love one another!..." That is the desire of my heart and my burning wish, at this last moment of my life. Yes, my dearest Brothers, hear these last words of your Father, which are those of our most Beloved Savior: Love one another.

[6] I ask also of the good God, and I desire with all the affection of my soul, that you persevere faithfully in the devout practice of the presence of God, which is the soul of prayer, of meditation and of all the virtues. May humility and simplicity always be the

character of the Little Brothers of Mary. May a tender and filial devotion for our good Mother animate you at all times and in all circumstances. Make her loved everywhere, in whatever way you can. She is the first Superior of the whole Society. With devotion to Mary join devotion to her most worthy spouse, the glorious St. Joseph. You know that he is one of your first patrons. You do the work of guardian angels toward the children entrusted to you; so to these pure spirits also, pay a special homage of love, respect and confidence.

[7] My very dear Brothers, be faithful to your vocation, love it and persevere in it with courage. Keep yourselves in a great spirit of poverty and detachment. Let the daily observance of your holy rule preserve you from ever failing in the sacred vow by which you are bound to the fairest and frailest of the virtues. There are some difficulties in leading the life of a good religious, but grace sweetens everything. Jesus and Mary will help you; besides, life is quite short and eternity will never end. Oh, how consoling it is, at the moment of appearing before God, to remember that we have lived under the protection of Mary, and in her holy Society. May it please that good Mother to preserve you, give you increase and bring you to holiness. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the imparting of the Holy Spirit be with you always. I leave you with confidence within the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, waiting the while until we can all reunite together in blissful eternity.

[8] Such is my last and express will for the glory of Jesus and Mary.

Prayer

Lord, Father of all mercy, through your Son at table with his disciples you have revealed to us the new commandment of perfect love, and in Blessed Marcellin Champagnat you have given us an example of it. By his prayers, may we love one another as brothers to the end, and bring the world to recognize the grace and truth of Christ, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

MC, p. 78.

July 23

The Anniversary of the Promise to Found a Society of Mary Made at the Shrine of Fourvière in Lyons in 1816

Reading I: I Cor 1:26-31.

Consider your own calling, brothers. Not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. Rather, God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong, and God chose the lowly and despised of the world, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who are something, so that no human being might boast before God. It is due to him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, as well as righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord."

Reading II: BT, Doc. 145, pp. 79-80.

The Fourvière Pledge.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All for the greater glory of God and the greater honor of Mary, Mother of the Lord Jesus.

We the undersigned, striving to work together for the greater glory of God and the honor of Mary, Mother of the Lord Jesus, assert and declare our sincere intention and firm will of consecrating ourselves at the first opportunity to founding the pious congregation of Mariists. That is why by the present act and our signatures, insofar as we can, we irrevocably dedicate ourselves and all our goods to the Society of the blessed Virgin. We do this not childishly or lightly or for some human motive or the hope of material benefit, but seriously, maturely, having taken advice, having weighed everything before God, solely for the greater glory of God and the honor of Mary, Mother of the Lord Jesus. We pledge ourselves to accept all sufferings, trials, inconveniences and, if need be, torture, because we can do all things in Christ Jesus who strengthens us and to whom we hereby promise fidelity in the bosom of our holy mother the Roman catholic church, cleaving with all our strength to its supreme head the Roman pontiff and to our most reverend bishop, the ordinary, that we may be good ministers of Jesus Christ, nourished with the words of faith and of the wholesome teaching which by his grace we have received. We trust that, under the reign of our most Christian king, the friend of peace and religion, this institute will shortly come to light and we solemnly promise that we shall spend ourselves and all we have in saving souls in every way under the very august name of the Virgin Mary and with her help.

All this is subject to the wiser judgment of our superiors.

May the holy and immaculate conception of the blessed Virgin Mary be praised.

Prayer

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, faith in your word is the way to wisdom, and to ponder your divine plan is to grow in truth. Open our eyes to your deeds, our ears to the sound of your call, so that our every act may increase our sharing in the life you have offered us. We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

MC, p. 80.

September 12

The Solemnity of the Holy Name of Mary

Reading I: Lk 11:27-28.

While [Jesus] was speaking, a woman from the crowd called out and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that carried you and the breasts at which you nursed.” He replied, “Rather, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.”

Reading II: BT, Doc. 268, §§ 2-3, pp. 164-165.

[From a retreat talk by Fr. Gabriel Germain, September 19, 1845.]

Well, Gentlemen, this name which is so great and so sublime, this name which is so holy and so august, this name which is so gentle and sweet, this name which is so powerful and so awe-inspiring—God in his infinite wisdom had decided from all eternity not only to give it to the one he destined to be his Mother, but eventually to honor with this same name a group of men whom he would call to carry out his designs. Now, eighteen centuries had passed since the appearance of the privileged creature who has made that name illustrious, and (astonishing fact!) still no congregation had taken this venerated name as its own appellation, when, one day, God inspired a humble priest with such a divine thought, and placed and engraved this blessed name of Mary first of all in his heart, so that he might give it to his brothers. He kept it in this heart, which is dear to all of us, as in an ark of salvation amid the storms and, so to say, a universal deluge, when, for more than twenty years, he was battered by waves of contradiction. But finally the sign of peace appeared in the skies and, upon seeing this heavenly sign, a venerable and holy bishop could not refrain from exclaiming, carried away with admiration: “*The finger of God is here.*” Gentlemen, you know the history of our modest origins; you all know how this name that had come from heaven was received by the representative of Jesus Christ on earth, and the remarkable favors that the holy pontiff wished to attach to it; but each knows especially how this holy name drew him to the Society. Oh! how many already owe their salvation to this holy name “Marists”! How many still, every day, embrace this sacred name as the miraculous plank that ought to lead them to a safe port! How many, until the end of time, will not cease to bless God for having called them to bear this name which is so great, so holy, and at the same time so humble and so sweet? Thus is fulfilled, and will be fulfilled every day, those inspired words of the successor of the apostles when, squeezing in those hands of his that bless the world the hands of our venerable founder, he said to him with emotion: “*Crescite et multiplicamini.* Increase and multiply and fill the earth.”

Prayer

O tender Mother, we are your most unworthy servants, but mercifully marked with your name; we take refuge in your heart with full confidence. Beset everywhere by the enemies of salvation, we cry out to you: tender Mother, open your heart to us. Hide us in the bosom of your mercy and under the wings of your protection. Do not allow any one of us to perish in eternity. O clement Virgin, we choose you today as our Superior and as Superior of your whole Society, and also as our Mother and Advocate. Tender Mother, accept us as your true sons Keep us united in charity and save us in eternity. Amen.

BT, # 277.

September 24

The Anniversary of the Election of the Venerable Father Colin as Superior General and the Religious Profession of the First Marists in 1836

Reading I: Acts 1:6-14.

When [the apostles] had gathered together they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” He answered them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they stood looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven.” Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away.

When they entered the city they went to the upper room where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Reading II: BT, Doc. 379, p. 219.

[From the 1842 Constitutions, the section on the Superior General.]

The truly special spirit of the Society consists in the fact that its members are far removed from all desire for earthly goods and especially from any worldly spirit, and are of such great poverty, humility, modesty, simplicity of heart, lack of interest in vanity and worldly ambition that, although they must apply themselves to all the ministries by which the salvation of souls can be furthered, yet they appear to be unknown and, as it were, hidden in the world. This spirit the General is to nourish in himself and to bring it to life and preserve it in others. For love of poverty he must do nothing whatsoever to the detriment of the Society, but his confidence in God and in the protection of blessed Mary must be such that he never, under any pretext and even that of the glory of God, acts under the influence or impulse of greed; he is likewise most carefully to beware lest the worldly spirit of recent entrants mar this little field or least Society of blessed Mary our mother and render it completely sterile in the fruits of salvation. In this let the Superior be most vigilant and severe.

Prayer

Ever-living and ever-loving God, may we always bear in mind that we belong by a gracious choice to the family of blessed Mary, Mother of God, from whose name we are called Marists, and whom we have chosen as our model and as our first and perpetual superior. Clothe us in her spirit. Let us rejoice to belong to her Society and bear her name. We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Based upon CSM, # 228.

November 15

The Anniversary of the Death of Venerable Father Founder in 1875

Reading I: Prv 3:13-24, 35.

Happy the man who finds wisdom,
the man who gains understanding!
For her profit is better than profit in silver,
and better than gold is her revenue;
She is more precious than corals,
and none of your choice possessions can
compare with her.
Long life is in her right hand,
in her left are riches and honor;
Her ways are pleasant ways,
and all her paths are peace;
She is a tree of life to those who grasp her,
and he is happy who holds her fast.
The LORD by wisdom founded the earth,
established the heavens by understanding;
By his knowledge the depths break open,
and the clouds drop down dew.
My son, let not these slip out of your sight:
keep advice and counsel in view;
So will they be life to your soul,
and an adornment for your neck.
Then you may securely go your way;
your foot will never stumble;
When you lie down, you need not be afraid;
when you rest, your sleep will be sweet.
Honor is the possession of wise men,
but fools inherit shame.

Reading II: FS, Doc. 54, § 3, p. 159.

[Remarks made by Fr. Colin while working on the Constitutions in 1842.]

“The third thing I want to urge is that the Marists not think so much about themselves. Let us not always be coming back upon ourselves, let us not look at ourselves so much. Really, what a spectacle! We are so fine! Rather, let us look to God, who is uncreated beauty. Let us walk in his presence. By always looking at him we shall become like him, we shall become perfect. How I pity those who are always caught up with themselves and who like to steep in their own juice.” As he said this, he laughed heartily. “Ah, yes,” he said, “we soil ourselves with our own company.” He added that a broader approach raises up the soul, makes it capable of great good, while those characters who are engrossed in themselves make no great progress, even in their own sanctification. “Let us laugh,” he said, “for God wants us to laugh. We shall weep on other occasions. Life is a mixture of laughing and weeping. Let us follow the path before us with our eyes

fixed on the good Lord.”

Prayer

Almighty Father, the love you offer always exceeds the furthest expression of our human longing, for you are greater than the human heart. Direct each thought, each effort of our life, so that the limits of our faults and weaknesses may not obscure the vision of your glory or keep us from the peace you have promised. We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

MC, p. 144.

Traditional Marist Intercessions

1. Holy and immaculate Heart of Mary,

Response: *Pray for the conversion of sinners and unbelievers.*

2. Saint Michael the Archangel and all our Guardian Angels,

Response: *Pray for the conversion of sinners and unbelievers.*

3. Saint Joseph,

Response: *Pray for the conversion of sinners and unbelievers.*

4. All the holy Apostles and Saint Francis Xavier,

Response: *Pray for the conversion of sinners and unbelievers.*

5. Saint Peter Chanel and Blessed Marcellin Champagnat,

Response: *Pray for the conversion of sinners and unbelievers.*

6. Queen of the Apostles,

Response: *Pray for our missionaries.*

PDP, p. 2.

PRAYER FOR THE SOCIETY

Let us pray for all the intentions of our Society, especially for the Superior General, vocations, and for our benefactors.

God our Father, from whom every perfect gift comes, we ask you, through the merits of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the intercession of Mary Most Holy, Saint Joseph, Saint Michael, and Saint Peter Chanel, to guide and increase our Society, to protect it against all error, and to maintain it in peace, in modesty, and in fervor of spirit. We ask you this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Salve Regina

SOURCES

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- SAC *The Sacramentary*, Catholic Book Publishing Co, New York, 1985.
- EYPB *Ever Your Poor Brother Peter Chanel: Surviving Letters and Futuna Journal*, translated by William Joseph Stuart, S.M., Rome, APM, 1991.
- BT *A Book of Texts for the Study of Marist Spirituality*, compiled by Edwin L. Keel, S.M., Rome, Center for Marist Studies, 1993.
- PDP *Pregchiere dopo pranzo*, Roma, 1991.

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