



Praying with Marcellin

A Prayer Resource Celebrating
Champagnat Marist Spirituality

Introduction

These prayer themes provide an opportunity to pray and reflect on aspects of our Champagnat Marist Spirituality. They have been developed from a resource produced by Br Kevin Dobbyn at the time of the canonisation of St Marcellin Champagnat SM and revised by Br Kevin Wanden.

Unless our hearts are turned toward that inspirational call of Jesus and Mary through the life of Marcellin and the first brothers, then our spirituality will stay at the level of devotion.

The transformation of our spirituality is something we must do through love and fidelity to St Marcellin Champagnat SM. It is this transformation which will enable others to see the Risen Lord at work in the world.

1. The Inspiration: The Call
2. Courage and Boldness
3. Communities for Mission
4. To Educate Children: You Must Love Them
5. Sharing the Mission: Brothers and Lay Together
6. Transforming our Vision
7. Our Spirituality of Communion

1. The Inspiration: The Call

Beginning:

Living God

Let me work with passion,

Unafraid of burning out,

Of being used,

Of being called a fool.

God, let me be proud to have been chosen.

Amen.

Prayer:

The path lies straight before me,

and like a mother about to give birth

the fire you've created within me, Creator God,
is sparking into life.

This spark urges us to begin,

to bring forth life

to kindle hope

and to raise the dead into light.

Wake up! Look alive and rejoice! He is risen!

From the darkness of death comes Light and Life.

The dawn of the Christ Risen is in our hands.

Give praise to our creator God,

whose Father's arms surround us,

Give praise to our saving God,

Word made flesh who frees us to follow,

Give praise to our nurturing God,

the Spirit who moves within us,

now and always, forever. Amen.

**Reading 1: Marcellin to Br Barthélemy
(Letter 4, 21 January 1830)**

What a wonderful and sublime vocation you have! You are constantly among the very people with whom Jesus Christ was so delighted to be, since he expressly forbade his disciples to prevent children from coming to him. And you, dear friend, far from preventing them, are making every effort to lead them to him. What a reception you will have in your turn, from this divine and generous master, who does not let even a glass of cold water go without its reward!

**Reading 2: Marcellin to the Brothers Community in Millery
(Letter 16, 15 August 1830)**

Don't be frightened; Mary is our defender. The hairs of our head are all counted, and not one of them can fall without God's permission. Let us be totally convinced that we have no greater enemy than ourselves. Only we can hurt ourselves; no one else can. God has said to the wicked, *'You can go just so far and no farther'*.

Reading 3: The call of the first disciples (LK 5:1-11).

One day Jesus was standing on the shore of Lake Gennesaret while the people pushed their way up to him to listen to the word of God. He saw two boats pulled up on the beach; the fishermen had left them and were washing the nets. Jesus got into one of the boats - it was Simon's - and asked him to push off a little from the shore. Jesus sat in the boat and taught the crowd...Jesus said to Simon, *'Don't be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.'* They pulled the boats up on the beach, left everything, and followed Jesus.

Reflection:

Pause to reflect on these readings.
You may wish to share a thought or insight.

Intercessions:

Lord, help us to be clear about our identity as seekers of your Kingdom following the path first trod by Marcellin Champagnat. Lord hear us. *Lord hear our prayer.*

Lord, sustain us in our Marist dream. May your Spirit help us to communicate that dream to others with the passion of Marcellin. Lord hear us. *Lord hear our prayer.*

Lord, may our Marist charism be light for all those with whom we come into contact, encouraging them to live out the call you make of them. Lord hear us. *Lord hear our prayer.*

Closing:

Loving God,
the inspiration you give us
fills us with wonder and enthusiasm.
Save us from the enemy of our own fears
and give us the enthusiasm and compassion of Marcellin
as, our hand in Mary's, we trace his footsteps in following you.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

2. Courage and Boldness

Beginning:

Living God,
You are the Timeless in my soul.
Remind me when I take a stand,
when I speak the truth of my experience
that I do not stand alone.
It is not my work, but yours
Timeless Friend, let me know your Truth and Love.
Amen.

Prayer:

Child, don't be chained up by shame;
let guilt turn you back toward the truth.
Don't speak against the truth,
for truth is the will of the Lord.
Don't make claims about what you can do in words
without carrying out what you say in action.
Don't be a lion alone and in your imagination
and a mouse in the company of others.
Don't bow down and kow-tow before those with influence;
speak out, or you will lose your soul.
It is the Lord who is my light and salvation
and so, I fear no one.
The Lord protects me from all danger
I need never be afraid.

Praise the Father, rock of our trust,
Praise the Son, whose truth is our Way
Praise the Spirit, whose comfort dispels our fears,
now and always, forever. Amen.

**Reading 1: Marcellin to one of the vicar generals in Lyon
(Letter 4, May 1827)**

All these setbacks bother me, naturally, but they do not surprise me, because I thought and even said that we had not seen the last of our trials. I am even almost certain that divine Providence is still holding some more in reserve for me. But I will dare to say that as long as God does not abandon me - may his holy name be blessed - I am not afraid of anything.

I am alone, but in spite of that, I have not lost courage, knowing how powerful God is and how hidden are his ways, even from the most clairvoyant of humans. He often reaches his goal when we think he is very far from it. I still firmly believe that God wants this work, in this age when unbelief is making such frightful progress; but perhaps he wants other men to start it. May his holy name be blessed. More than ever, I want to fulfill his holy will, as soon as I know what it is.

**Reading 2: Marcellin to Br Antoine
(Letter 17, 10 September 1830)**

Do not be afraid of anything, dear friends; we have God to defend us. No one can harm us if God does not let him. Despite the rage which hell stirs up against the Church, that Church is founded on a rock and nothing can shake it. It is never more beautiful than when it is persecuted. So let us abandon ourselves to the wise and loving guidance of Divine Providence.

Reading 3: The role of the Spirit (JN 14:26-31)

The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the father will send in my name, will teach you everything and make you remember all that I have told you. Peace is what I leave with you, it is my own peace that I give you. I do not give it as the world does. Do not be worried and upset; do not be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am leaving, but I will come back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father; for he is greater than I. I have told you this now before it all happens, so that when it does happen, you will believe. I

cannot talk with you much longer, because the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me, but the world must know that I love the Father; that is why I do everything as he commands me.

Reflection:

Pause to reflect on these readings.
You may wish to share a thought or insight.

Intercessions:

Lord, you call us to listen to your Word and to act on it. May your Spirit prompt us to respond to the needs of our time with courage and boldness.

Lord hear us. *Lord hear our prayer.*

Lord, embolden us as we strive to live out Marcellin's dream. May your Spirit help us to communicate that dream to others with passion and enthusiasm.

Lord hear us. *Lord hear our prayer.*

Lord, your fire touched the early disciples and transformed them. Place in our hearts a similar fire so that we can continue to make Marcellin's dream real for all young people, particularly those most in need.

Lord hear us. *Lord hear our prayer.*

Closing:

Risen Lord,
your Spirit enables us to dare to be different.
Through the Pentecost gift of the Spirit to your Church,
give us that courage to be bold in what we proclaim,
since, like Mary and Marcellin, we are about God's work
in building the kingdom of justice, peace and love.
Amen.

3. Communities for Mission

Beginning:

God of life,
at this time you call us forth
in faith, hope and love
to be attentive to the prompting of the Holy Spirit
as we seek to build communities
that are prophetic and committed to mission.
Give us the vision and courage to respond
to the issues and needs around us.
Amen.

Prayer:

See him, my Son, my chosen. My soul delights in him.
I have infused my Spirit into him
that he might lead all peoples to me.
He does not cry out or shout or yell from street corners.
He will not reject the bruised or weak,
He will not discard the undecided or unsure
if they keep up their every effort.
Faithful, he comes in justice
and strangers long for his coming.
God, your strength does not lie in numbers
nor in the plans of those who manipulate others,
because you are the God of the humble, the forgotten
You embrace those who are lost and near despair.
Hear the prayer of the one you have chosen.
Give me wit and wisdom so that I can stand before others
boldly proclaiming your peace.
Let simplicity be my approach to win others' hearts
and an open heart be my power and strength.

Sing praise to God, Father who blesses us,
Sing praise to God, Son whose prophetic words we make flesh,

Sing praise to God, the Spirit who transforms us,
now and always, forever. Amen.

Reading 1: Water from the Rock (pars. 127-128)

The cries of the world, especially those of poor people, touch the heart of God and ours as well. The depth of God's compassion challenges us to be men and women whose hearts have no bounds since in his infinite love, God continues to be totally involved with all men and women and today's world, with its disappointments and hopes.

Our Marist charism prompts us to be attentive to the calls of our time, to the longings and preoccupations of people, especially the young. Surpassing religious and cultural borders we seek the same dignity for all: human rights, justice, peace, and equitable and responsible sharing of the planet's wealth.

Reading 2: Water from the Rock (pars. 147-148)

The Spirit speaks God's love ever afresh into our world. Like Champagnat we desire to be continually open to its movement and urgings. The dying Jean-Baptiste Montagne impelled Marcellin to begin his project of having Brothers to teach the deprived children of the rural areas. Who are our Montagnes? Who today compels in us an apostolic response? These are leading questions in our ongoing discernment.

So we direct our journey to those places where others would prefer not to go, to enter into the suffering there, like Mary at the foot of the Cross, and to be a presence and service that remains faithful, despite its risks. This experience urges us to move ahead, with courage and apostolic zeal to difficult missions, to marginalised areas, and unexplored surroundings, where the seed of the kingdom has not yet taken root. When our mission is concluded, we move on to new places that require our presence.

Reading 3: Reading the signs of the times (LK 12:54-57)

Jesus said to the crowd: “When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, ‘It’s going to rain,’ and it does. And when the south wind blows, you say, ‘It’s going to be hot,’ and it is. Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don’t know how to interpret this present time?”

Reflection:

Pause to reflect on these readings.
You may wish to share a thought or insight.

Intercessions:

Lord, may the dream of Marcellin live in our communities and families today in such a way that all who experience it will be drawn to the vision he had of God’s love for all people.

Lord hear us. *Lord hear out prayer.*

Lord, your compassion challenges us to be men and women whose hearts have no bounds. Help us to build prophetic communities for mission.

Lord hear us. *Lord hear out prayer.*

Spirit of God, give us a generous heart to respond to the needs of young people today.

May they see your compassion for them through our care for them.

Lord hear us. *Lord hear our prayer.*

Closing:

God of life, your Holy Spirit speaks your love ever afresh into our world.

Like Mary, may we be open to your Holy Spirit.

Enflame our hearts with the vision of Marcellin

as we respond to the calls of our times with audacity and faith.

We ask this through the Risen Christ, our Brother.

Amen.

4. To Educate Children: You Must Love Them

Beginning:

Living God,
let me take a break for a moment
from being knowledgeable, and from having all the answers.
With you for these few moments,
I am your child and you are my Dad.
Let me not take life too seriously
and help me laugh at my foibles and play before you.
Amen.

Prayer:

We call you Jesus - but your name is Abundant Giving.
God is Abundant Giving, and you, Jesus,
are the human face of Abundant Giving.
You came to show us the way.
It is in the nature of the Giver to give and choices don't come into it.
Divine gifts are not earned, they are simply needed,
and you are the answer to the need,
the pouring out of God on a troubled people.
Your ideas of goodness were not ours.
You gathered food on the Sabbath,
did not always respect religious leaders,
and you embraced people that others called sinners.
You taught us that it was all right to show weakness,
to weep, to be angry, to laugh like a child,
to have doubts and to cry out with pain.
You took us through everything we could expect from life,
and showed us how to celebrate the freedom of truth.

Give praise to God who is abundant giver of love,
Give praise to God whose human face is our Way,
Give praise to God whose breath blows away our fears,
now and always, forever. Amen.

Reading 1: Marcellin to Br Euthyme

(Letter 102, 19 March 1837)

Courage, dear brother; Jesus and Mary will be your reward; call on them to help you when you are tempted, they will never let you give in. Try to make your meditation well, it is a major element in the life of a religious. I can tell you that I guarantee your salvation if you are faithful to making your meditation well.

Remember, too, how important your beginners' class is; it is up to you to train in their religion all the children you teach; it is up to you to open or close heaven to them. So, dear friend, aim to edify them, pray for them, to imprint the love of God strongly in their young hearts.

Reading 2: In the Footsteps (pars. 97-98)

Our style of educating is based on a vision that is truly holistic, and that consciously seeks to communicate values. While we share such a vision with many, especially in Church circles, we use a distinctive pedagogical approach which Marcellin and the first Marists initiated and which was innovative in many of its aspects.

We share their intuition that “to bring up children properly, we must love them, and love them all equally”. From this principle flow the particular characteristics of our style of educating: presence, simplicity, family spirit, love of work, and following the way of Mary. We seek to adopt these attitudes and values as our way of inculturating the Gospel. It is their sum and their interaction which gives our Marist style its Spirit-inspired originality.

Reading 3. Who is the greatest? (MT 18:2-5)

So Jesus called a little child to him whom he set among them. Then he said, 'In truth I tell you, unless you change and become like little children you will never enter the kingdom of Heaven. And so, the one who makes himself as little as this little child is the greatest in

the kingdom of heaven. Anyone who welcomes one little child like this in my name welcomes me.'

Reflection:

Pause to reflect on these readings.
You may wish to share a thought or insight.

Intercessions:

Lord, Marcellin was moved to found the Institute after his encounter with the dying Montagne boy. May we be seized with the same urgency in our Montagne encounters.

Lord hear us. *Lord hear our prayer.*

Lord, you challenge us to be with marginalised young people, help us to be open to moving to 'new lands' in our hearts, minds and mission.

Lord hear us. *Lord hear our prayer.*

Lord, we thank you for the grace of bearing the name of Mary. May our relationships with people be shaped in the manner of Mary.

Lord hear us. *Lord hear our prayer.*

Closing:

Loving God,
we are blessed to have such a Good Mother
who cares for each and every one of her daughters and sons.
May Marcellin's simple trust in her everyday help
inspire us to love the young people we are called to educate.
Help us to have that sensitivity and discretion,
so much a part of Mary's way of living the Gospel.
We ask this through Christ your Son and hers, and our Brother.
Amen.

5. Sharing the Mission: Brothers and Lay Together

Beginning:

Down-to-earth God of love,
how will we ever grasp the mystery
that you came to be one of us,
and are even now among us.
In this sacred space, let us know who we really are -
no need for airs or graces or masks of any kind.
Whisper your name into our hearts
and open our ears to hear the different harmonies
of your Word made flesh.
Amen.

Prayer:

God, you are marvellous indeed,
such is our song as we stand in awe.
Sacred is your mountain, a holy place.
It is there we have a sense of your might.
This is what we hear and see
when we share in building the city of God,
the sacred, where we sense God's presence.
Lord, we ponder your love
in the sacred and mystical moments of our lives.
You are justice itself and let us be glad in that.
Your own people are happy indeed
and blessed by your wisdom and insight.
Look over this holy place, know this sacred land.
Let us earth ourselves in this sacred time
and look at how we are related
so that we can tell others after us that such is our God,
our God forever and always.
You, O God, will always guide us.

Sing praise to God, who fathers us into life,

Sing praise to God, in whom we are children of God,
Sing praise to God, who calls us to community,
now and always, forever. Amen.

Reading 1: Gathered around the Same Table (pars. 45 and 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.

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.

Reading 2: Gathered around the Same Table (pars. 60 and 62)

We lay people can contribute a new way of animating Marist life in the work. Together with the Brothers, we can form local communities which are the heart of the mission and the guarantee of our Marist evangelizing identity. These communities can be the seed of a new vitality for the mission, which is not based solely on the number or presence of Brothers in any given place.

The International Assembly on Marist Mission, which took place in September 2007 in Mendes (Brazil), has been for many of us a symbol of the distance we have travelled and of the horizons we, lay people and brothers, are approaching, encouraged by the Spirit. We were invited to put our efforts into *an evangelizing education, an education committed to solidarity and social transformation, attentive to cultures and respect for the environment; education without discrimination that creates opportunities for what is lacking.*

Reading 3: Salt of the earth, light of the world (MT 5:13-16)

You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp-stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Reflection:

Pause to reflect on these readings.
You may wish to share a thought or insight.

Intercessions:

Father, we thank you for the call to be among those who spread the "Good News". Help us to be faithful to the mission you have entrusted to us.

Lord hear us. *Lord hear our prayer.*

Lord, in Marcellin's spirit of total trust in you we pray for the guidance of your Spirit as we develop true partnership with those who wish to share Champagnat's charism.

Lord hear us. *Lord hear our prayer.*

Lord, we thank you for our call to serve you, and we try to be faithful. Send your Spirit to guide us as we respond to the challenges of our times.

Lord hear us. *Lord hear our prayer.*

Closing:

God, you have called each of us by name
to live our own communion of love and holiness
and to be one in the great family of God's children.
You have sent us forth to shine with the light of Christ.
You call us through Mary and Marcellin
to communicate the fire of the Spirit in every part of society
through our lives inspired by the Gospel.
Amen.

6. Transforming our Vision

Beginning:

Living God,
as you transform bread and wine into your Son
transform the bits and pieces of my day
into a gift I can offer without excuse.
Give me my share of Marcellin's vision
so that the young people whose lives I touch
will see the Body of Christ real and living
awakening the God within their hearts.
Amen.

Prayer:

If the Lord does not build our house,
then we waste our time as the builders;
if the Lord does not protect our ventures
then we waste our time in our daily tasks.
It is a useless exercise to burn ourselves out,
early to rise and late to bed
because the Lord provides for those he loves,
even as we sleep soundly.
The young people we have called our own
are like strings to our bow.
What a blessing for Marists with this kind of tune.
Their songs will be sure
and its chorus will not be silenced
by those who would dismiss their life's work and mission.

Sing to our God, who cradles us in fatherly arms,
Sing to our God, Love incarnate in our world,
Sing to our God, breath of life ever new,
now and always, forever. Amen.

Reading 1: He gave us the name of Mary (p. 22)

In 2001, John Paul II said in addressing the General Chapters of the Marist Family: *In setting out in haste to the hills of Judea for the meeting with her cousin Elizabeth, is Mary not teaching us spiritual freedom? It matters, in fact, that you do not let yourselves become absorbed only in the management of the inheritance received and that you discern what is advisable to abandon in a spirit of poverty, but above all that we make ourselves available with the freedom of the Gospel to the calls of the Spirit. Before the multiplicity of calls, there is in fact a need for an authentic freedom in discerning the priorities.*

Reading 2: He gave us the name of Mary (p. 22)

What did the XXI General Chapter ask of us? Exactly what John Paul II did eight years earlier: *Go in haste, with Mary, to a new land!* The word new appears many times in the Chapter document: *new land; new epoch for the Marist charism; new consecrated life; new way of being brother; new relationship between brothers and laity; new Marists...* If newness is so insisted on, it must be because we are not satisfied with our current situation. Nevertheless, it gives the impression that, once enlightened by the Spirit and seeing clearly that it is necessary to head for new lands... we put it down in writing and go back to our usual occupations as if nothing had happened!

Reading 3: Jesus at Nazareth (LK 4:16-20)

When Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."* And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

Reflection:

Pause to reflect on these readings.
You may wish to share a thought or insight.

Intercessions:

Father of Love, you call us to share in the mission of Jesus, our Risen Lord and brother: - may we share with Him your human face to those we are called to serve, especially the most needy young people.
Compassionate God, grace us. *Compassionate God, grace us.*

Jesus, Lord of life, from crib to cross and upon the altar of our history, you make yourself every present to your followers: - give us your tenacity and daring to walk the way of the Gospel as Mary did, your first disciple and our Good Mother.
Liberating God, free us. *Liberating God, free us.*

Spirit of Unity, you stir us into communion, a sign to the Church and to the world of the communion Jesus longed for among his disciples. Guide our steps as we place our feet firmly in the footprints of Marcellin, faithful to his charism and sharing his insights with one another in our mission to the young people who most need God's love.
God of communion, bind us. *God of communion, bind us.*

Closing:

Faithful God,
make us bold to be creative and faithfully vibrant
in answering the needs of neglected young people today.
Let our faithfulness not cling to the patterns of the past,
but find ways of ensuring the vitality
of Marcellin' s first inspiration.
May we go in haste like Mary, in faith and hope.
We ask this through Christ our brother. Amen.

7. Our Spirituality of Communion

Beginning:

Today marks not the end of our dream
but the beginning where we set out,
filled with enthusiasm and vigour,
with a passion for life and the Gospel
with our hearts resting firmly in you.
In touch with the simple truth of ourselves,
keep us earthed in the love of Jesus and Mary.
Amen.

Prayer:

How wonderful it is, how pleasant
that God's people live in harmony,
brothers and sisters to one another.
It is like the 'ah!' of a thirst quenched
or the joy of coming home after a day's work.
It is like the first rains after a long drought.
Come praise the Lord,
we who are servants of the Sacred.
Let us lift our hands in prayer and praise,
in joyful song to our God,
the loving God of all creation.
Kind and compassionate, God calls us his own.
Sing praise to our God with full voice.

Give glory to God, Father creative and faithful,
Give glory to God, Son revealing the God within us,
Give glory to God, Spirit sparking all into new life,
now and always. Amen.

Reading 1: The "Practical Christianity" of Marcellin Champagnat: Br Seán Sammon

Marcellin loved young people. They, in turn, found his enthusiasm and energy contagious. What factors fuelled his passion for life and shaped his spirituality? An awareness of God's presence, an unwavering confidence in Mary and her protection, and the two uncomplicated virtues of simplicity and humility.

Marcellin's *Spiritual Testament*, not written in his own hand but expressing the sentiments of his heart, develops in more detail the spirituality of his 'Little Brothers'. Practise the presence of God, he told them, it is the soul of prayer, meditation, and all others, and maintain always a spirit of poverty and detachment. Have a filial and tender devotion to Mary, he counselled, make her loved in every place. Love and be faithful to your vocation and persevere in it courageously. The origins of Marcellin's spirituality, then, are not to be found in some monastery; rather, his is a spirituality with its roots in the marketplace. There was nothing petty about the founder of the Marist Brothers. He took the gospel seriously. It is not surprising, therefore, that obedience and love were the two attributes he recommended to his early followers. They are, after all, the foundation of community. Obedience is its mainstay; love binds together all virtues and makes them perfect. Of this second, there was to be no limit. Marcellin loved his brothers; he expected no less from them, each one for the other.

Throughout his life as a priest, the founder was fond of saying, 'to rear children properly, we must love them, and love them all equally'. The virtue of love, therefore, was to be not only the foundation of community but also of a distinctive Marist method of evangelisation and education. It had been Mary's way with Jesus; it was now to be the way of all who followed the dream that so captured the heart of this country priest and his early brothers.

**Reading 2: Marcellin's Spiritual Testament
(18 May, 1840)**

I beg you with all the love of my heart, and by the love you bear me, keep ever alive among you the charity of Christ. Love one another as Jesus Christ has loved you. Be of one heart and one mind. Have the world say of the Little brothers of Mary, what they said of the first Christians: *'See how they love one another'*.

May that Good Mother keep you safe, give you increase and bring you to holiness. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be always with you. I leave you all with confidence in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary until we be all united again in a happy eternity. Such is my last and express wish for the glory of Jesus and Mary

Reading 3: A new commandment (JN 13:34-35)

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

Reflection:

Pause to reflect on these readings.
You may wish to share a thought or insight.

Intercessions:

Father, Marcellin saw you in all things, and believed all good things came from you,
may we be open to your presence in our lives.
God of communion hear us. *God of communion hear us.*

Jesus you invited us to ask, knock and seek. Walk with us and guide us as we endeavour to go in haste to new lands.
God of communion hear us. *God of communion hear us.*

Spirit of God, you call us to move beyond our own limited horizons,
may we be ready to respond in faith to your call.
God of communion hear us. *God of communion hear us.*

Closing:

Mary, Mother of God and our Good Mother,
we know our limitations
and for that reason we entrust ourselves to you
as did our father and founder, Marcellin.

You are with us on our journey,
may your presence and example lead us
to follow Christ in your way,
that of perfect discipleship.

Pray for us and with us,
that we may have open hearts
to God's dreams for us.

Help us to discover afresh the spirituality
and charism that the Spirit has blessed us with in Marcellin,
a gift for the Church and the world,
in which we can become, with your help and love,
a sign for young people
of the tenderness of the Father's love
and the belonging that marks the community
of Jesus' disciples.
Amen.

Water from the Rock — Paragraph Matrix

Introduction to Marist Spirituality: paragraphs 1-15

	God's Presence and Love	Trust in God	Love of Jesus and His Gospel	In Mary's Way	Family Spirit	Spirituality of Simplicity
Essence	16	17, 18	19-24	25-29	30-32	33-43
For Me	44-52	53-70	71-79 How: 80-90	71, 88	73, 83, 87	89, 90
For Us	91-97	107	103-112	99, 113, 114	98, 100-103, 115-118	119-123
For Mission	124, 126, 128	130, 135, 136	125, 127, 129, 130	131-134 151, 152	140-150	135, 137-139
Where to Now?	153-156					