**MARCH 2018**

**Intention from the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network**

**Evangelization: Formation in Spiritual Discernment**

That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels.



*The reflections this month are drawn from the Constitutions.*

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| Thursday 1 | Lenten Weekday |

**Readings:** Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31

**Intention 1:** For deceased Brothers, parents, relatives, pupils, colleagues and benefactors.

**Intention 2:** Marists at Marist College, Emerald, QLD.

**Marist Anniversary:** **1943**—Death of Ven Brother Alfano in Ventimiglia, Italy.

**Reflection:** We respond to God, who consecrates us through the ministry of the Church, by profession of the evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty, and obedience. This profession is expressed in public vows made in the Church and accepted by the Superior. (C.15)

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| Friday 2 | Lenten Weekday |

**Readings:** Gn 37:3-4,12-13a,17b-28a; Mt 21:33-43,45-46

**Intention 1:** For our Brother Superior General.

**Intention 2:** Marists at Marist College, Kogarah, NSW.

**Reflection:** By [our profession], we pledge ourselves to live according to the universal law and the law proper to the Institute. The Institute, in turn, welcomes us as members and ensures for us whatever is needed to attain the aim of our vocation. (C.15)

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| Saturday 3 | Lent—*Katharine Drexel* |

**Readings:** Mi 7:14-15,18-20; Lk 15:1-3,11-32

**Intention 1:** For our community leaders and local superiors.

**Intention 2:** Marists at Marist-Sion College, Warragul, VIC.

**Reflection:** In renouncing, by our vows, certain values cherished in this world, we manifest the presence of heavenly goods already possessed here below. We thus give witness to the power of grace, which enables us to set aside these values. (C.16)

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| **Sunday 4** | **3rd Sunday of Lent** |

**Readings:** Ex 20:1-17; 1Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

**Office:** Week 3

**Intention 1:** For our elderly Brothers.

**Intention 2:** Marists at Mt Carmel Catholic College, Varroville, NSW.

**Reflection:** By our vows we take a stand against whatever in human relationships runs counter to the fulfilment of God's plan. (C.16)

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| Monday 5 | Lenten Weekday |

**Readings:** 2Kgs 5:1-15b; Lk 4:24-30

**Intention 1:** For our families.

**Intention 2:** Marists at Mt Maria College, Mitchelton, QLD.

**Reflection:** In the world but not of the world, our communities call people to liberality, to a freely given and universal love, to a new life in Christ. (C.16)

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| Tuesday 6 | Lenten Weekday |

**Readings:** Dn 3:25,34-43; Mt 18:21-25

**Intention 1:** For our local superiors and community leaders.

**Intention 2:** Marists at Mt Maria College, Petrie, QLD.

**Reflection:** As consecrated men, we reach out to others, especially to young people, to make Jesus Christ known. Apostolic action is part of the very nature of our religious family. (C.17)

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| Wednesday 7 | Lent—*Perpetua and Felicity* |

**Readings:** Dt 4:1,5-9; Mt 5:17-19

**Intention 1:** For our major Superiors.

**Intention 2:** Marists at Notre Dame College, Shepparton, VIC.

**Reflection:** We keep alive the attitude of Father Champagnat, as did our first Brothers, by giving ourselves whole-heartedly to the task assigned to us by obedience—a task which must be consonant with the aim of the Institute and carried out in union with the Church. (C.17)

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| Thursday 8 | Lent—*John of God* |

**Readings:** Jer 7:23-28; Lk 11:14-23

**Intention 1:** For our parents.

**Intention 2:** Marists at Pete’s Place, Blacktown, NSW.

**Reflection:** We take care to see that our apostolic action always flows out of our intimate union with God, and that it strengthens and promotes this union. (C.17)

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| Friday 9 | Lent—*Frances of Rome* |

**Readings:** Hos 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34

**Intention 1:** For our senior Brothers.

**Intention 2:** Marists at St Dominic’s Rural Training Centre, Vanga Point, Solomon Islands.

**Reflection:** The model of our consecration is Mary, chosen by God to be completely His. She welcomed in faith the Word of God at the Annunciation; she surrendered herself, in love and joy, to the workings of the Holy Spirit, giving herself totally to Him. (C.18)

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| Saturday 10 | Lenten Weekday |

**Readings:** Hos 6:1-6; Lk 18:9-14

**Intention 1:** For our sick and suffering Brothers.

**Intention 2:** Marists at St Francis Primary School, Ayr, QLD.

**Marist Anniversary:** **1908**—The Australian Novitiate was canonically erected at Mittagong, and placed under the patronage of Our Lady of the Hermitage.

**Reflection:** As men dedicated to Mary, we offer heart-felt thanks to her for the grace of our vocation, confident that her intercession will help us to persevere faithfully. (C.18)

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| **Sunday 11** | **4th Sunday of Lent** |

**Readings:** 2Chr 36:14-16,19-23; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

**Office:** Week 4

**Intention 1:** For our spiritual directors.

**Intention 2:** Marists at St Joseph’s School, Northam, WA.

**Reflection:** Our Founder, who learnt so much from Mary, is always our model of complete self-gift to God and of devotedness to people. His life is a living witness to us of the ideal that he presented to his first followers: "To become a Brother is to take as your goal to become holy." (C.18)

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| Monday 12 | Lenten Weekday |

**Readings:** Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54

**Intention 1:** For our Superiors.

**Intention 2:** Marists at St Joseph’s Secondary School, Tenaru, Solomon Islands.

**Marist Anniversary:** **1808**—Birth of Gabriel Rivat at Les Maisonettes near Lavalla-en-Gier.

**Reflection:** We look to Mary, as Father Champagnat did, as guide and support in our learning to live the chaste life. She is the woman who was the first to live a life of virginity because of Christ. (C.21)

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| Tuesday 13 | Lenten Weekday |

**Readings:** Ez 47:1-9,12; Jn 5:1-16

**Intention 1:** For patience and understanding.

**Intention 2:** For Pope Francis, on the anniversary of his election.

**Reflection:** In making a place for Mary in our home, we learn how people are to be loved, and we, in turn, become living signs of the Father's tenderness. (C.21)

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| Wednesday 14 | Lenten Weekday |

**Readings:** Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30

**Intention 1:** For patience with our own brokenness.

**Intention 2:** Marists at St Marcellin Primary School, Vanga Point, Solomon Islands.

**Reflection:** We make young people welcome, our hearts open to receive them and ready to serve them. Mary inspires us to have constant concern for their welfare, and to respond with selfless love to their appeals for help. (C.21)

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| Thursday 15 | Lenten Weekday |

**Readings:** Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47

**Intention 1:** For personal fidelity and apostolic fruitfulness.

**Intention 2:** Marists at St Mary’s Catholic College, Casino, NSW.

**Reflection:** We are attentive to all that promotes physical and psychological well-being. We make an enlightened and prudent use of leisure activities and of the mass media. We shape our conduct to the dictates of a delicate conscience. (C.26)

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| Friday 16 | Lenten Weekday |

**Readings:** Wis 2:1a,12-22; Jn 7:1-2,10,25-30

**Intention 1:** For realisation of how we have loved.

**Intention 2:** Marists at St Patrick’s Marist College, Dundas, NSW.

**Reflection:** We accept life's trials, uniting ourselves to Christ in His Passion. So that we can be wholly His and free to love those sent to us, we work to purify our hearts. (C.26)

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| Saturday 17 | **Patrick** |

**Readings:** Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53

**Intention 1:** For renewed vision.

**Intention 2:** Marists at St Peter Claver College, Riverview, QLD.

**Marist Anniversary:** **1984**—Foundation of the District of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

**Reflection:** Christ was born in deprivation, lived by the work of His hands, announced the good news to the poor and proclaimed them blessed. (C.28)

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| **Sunday 18** | **5th Sunday of Lent** |

**Readings:** Jer 31:31-34; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33

**Office:** Week 1

**Intention 1:** For sincerity of Heart.

**Intention 2:** Marists at St Peter’s Campus of All Saints College, Maitland, NSW.

**Reflection:** Knowing that He had received everything from the Father, Christ gave Himself freely into His hands and emptied Himself to the point of dying on a cross. (C.28)

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| Monday 19 | **Joseph, husband of Mary** |

**Readings:** 2Sam 7:4-5a,12-14a,16; Rom 4:13,16-18,22;

Mt 1:16,18-21,24a (Lk 2:41-51a)

**Intention 1:** For teachers in Catholic schools.

**Intention 2:** Marists at St Teresa’s Catholic College, Noosaville, QLD.

**Reflection:** As the Founder wished, we honour St Joseph, the principal patron of the Institute. He teaches us forgetfulness of self in the service of others. We ask him to help us share his love for Jesus and Mary. (C.76)

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| Tuesday 20 | Lenten Weekday |

**Readings:** Nm 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30

**Intention 1:** For the Brothers in our community.

**Intention 2:** Marists at the John Berne school for marginalised youth, Lewisham, NSW.

**Reflection:** Together with Joseph the carpenter, Mary lives as one of the insignificant people of Nazareth. From the Annunciation to Calvary, she gives her active consent to every kind of detachment asked of her by God. (C.30)

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| Wednesday 21 | Lenten Weekday |

**Readings:** Dn 3:14-20,91-92,95; Jn 8:31-42

**Intention 1:** For the Brothers in the countries of the Pacific region.

**Intention 2:** Marists at the Province centres at Ashgrove, Brunswick and Mascot.

**Reflection:** In her company, we gradually break loose from our earthly attachments, in accordance with the purifying purpose of the Lord, who fashions within us a heart that is poor. (C.30)

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| Thursday 22 | Lenten Weekday |

**Readings:** Gn 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59

**Intention 1:** For the community that Marcellin created.

**Intention 2:** Marists at the Trinity Catholic College campuses, Auburn and Regents Park, NSW.

**Reflection:** Spiritual poverty keeps us in a relationship of total dependence on the Father. It shows itself in our recourse to Superiors, in the acceptance of our limitations, and in our willingness to receive help from others. (C.31)

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| Friday 23 | Lenten Weekday |

**Readings:** Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42

**Intention 1:** For the gift of self-acceptance.

**Intention 2:** Marists at Trinity College, Beenleigh, QLD.

**Reflection:** Spiritual poverty leads us to make continual use of prayer, which re-kindles courage and trust. It creates in us the peace of the poor man who has abandoned himself to God's care. (C.31)

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| Saturday 24 | Lenten Weekday |

**Readings:** Ez 37:21-28; Jn 11:45-56

**Intention 1:** For the homeless in our society.

**Intention 2:** Marists at Wewak and Yangoru, Papua New Guinea.

**Reflection:** Father Champagnat's poverty of heart is seen most clearly in his trust in God's loving care. The foundation of our Institute is an ever-living proof that no daring is too great for a man of faith. (C.33)

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| **Sunday 25** | **Palm Sunday** |

**Readings:** Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1—15:47

**Office:** Week 2

**Intention 1:** For the members of the General Council.

**Intention 2:** Marists engaged in Solidarity projects across the region.

**Reflection:** Loving the poor as he did, our Founder wanted to send us more especially to them, without excluding others. His first followers, by their austere life-style, lived very much on the level of the people they were serving. (C.33)

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| Monday 26 | Monday of Holy Week |

**Readings:** Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11

**Intention 1:** For the members of the Provincial and District Councils.

**Intention 2:** Marists working with youth initiatives across the region.

**Reflection:** Attuned to the voice of the Church, and in touch with our own vocation, we stand in solidarity with the poor and their just causes. (C.34)

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| Tuesday 27 | Tuesday of Holy Week |

**Readings:** Is 49:1-6; Jn 13:21-33,36-38

**Intention 1:** For the other branches of the Marist family.

**Intention 2:** The Brothers and Marists, the LaValla200 Project, Mt Druitt, NSW.

**Reflection:** Concern for the poor impels us to search out the root causes of their wretchedness, and to free ourselves from prejudice or indifference towards them. It makes us become more responsible in the use of our resources. (C.34)

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| Wednesday 28 | Wednesday of Holy Week |

**Readings:** Is 50:4-9a; Mt 26:14-25

**Intention 1:** For the poor in our society.

**Intention 2:** The Brothers’ Community and co-workers, the La Valla school, Yodifee and Villa Maria, Cambodia.

**Reflection:** Our following of Christ leads us to an inner divesting of self. Detachment from earthly goods frees us from needless worries. To be credible witnesses, we refuse to accept privileges that would stifle gospel freedom. (C.35)

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| **Thursday 29** | **Holy Thursday** |

**Readings:** Ex 12:1-8,11-14; 1Cor 11:22-26; Jn 13:1-15

**Intention 1:** For the Pope and our bishops.

**Intention 2:** The Brothers’ Community and Marists at Ltyentye Apurte, Santa Teresa, NT.

**Reflection:** We are all jointly responsible for community prayer, which weaves together the threads of daily events in our lives. Each of us draws support from the presence and example of his confrères. It is especially in the Eucharist that our community prayer reaches its highest level. (C.57)

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| **Friday 30** | **Good Friday** |

**Readings:** Is 52:13-53:12; Heb 4:14-16, 5:7-9; Jn 18:1—19:42

**Intention 1:** For the strengthening of our relationships.

**Intention 2:** The Brothers’ Community and Marists, Bacau, East Timor.

**Marist Anniversary:** **1817**—Marcellin Champagnat placed his Institute under the protection of Mary, and called its members Brothers of Mary.

**Reflection:** As woman and mother, Mary knew in her heart the joys and sorrows of life. In Jesus' company, she lived in utter trust in the Father, even to the foot of the Cross. (C.18)

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| **Saturday 31** | **Holy Saturday** |

**Readings:** Gen 1:1—2:2; Gen 22:1-18; Ex 14:15—15:1; Is 54:5-14; Is 55:1-11; Bar 3:9-15,32—4:4; Ez 36:16-28; Rom 6:3-11; Mk 16:1-7

**Intention 1:** That, like Mary, we put our trust in God.

**Intention 2:** The Brothers’ Community and Marists, Eastwood, NSW.

**Reflection:** In the glory of the risen Christ, Mary becomes, in a special way, the mother of all those consecrated to God. (C.18)