

## **MARIST GATHERINGS**

### **GUIDELINES FOR THOSE WHO LEAD**

**Our goal is to connect, to remember, to share and, perhaps, to act. To help us discern how and if we want to “be Marist”.**

**These meetings are a first attempt to see “who’s out there”, who may be interested in one of several options:**

- 1) To be part of a group that meets periodically – to listen to Marist stories and Gospel stories and then share our own stories on how we live out this call. To nourish one another on the journey.**
- 2) To be part of a group that wants a little more – meeting on a regular basis, sharing prayer, scripture, Marist life and service.**
- 3) To take part in the Come Home to the Hermitage retreat program, making a commitment to 12 weeks together**
- 4) To seek a more formal association – making a commitment to each other and to a Marist formation process.**

**Invites: Try to reach out to the various constituencies in your community –brothers, faculty and staff of the school, board members, alumni, parents, supporters. There might be mixed groups or groups of all one category. See what works best re: schedules and timing. People may come to one or more meetings.**

**As people arrive: Make sure folks who may not know anyone get introduced to at least one or two others. Probably a good idea to do food and socializing first, so people can relax and chat. However, meeting first is also an option.**

**As meeting begins: Gather in a circle. Do your best to make sure it’s one big circle. Space may dictate two or three concentric circles, but do your best to make sure no one is stuck out in left field (especially those who don’t know a lot of people).**

**Go around and have everyone introduce themselves – name and how they are connected to Marist (or some other identifying fact you’d like to use)**

**Explain briefly that we will begin with prayer and then go into our discussion.**

***FEEL FREE TO EDIT AND/OR REPLACE PRAYERS, TO USE WHATEVER MUSIC YOU WOULD LIKE, ETC.***

**If possible, have available copies of Water From the Rock, Gathered Around the Same Table, In the Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat. Tell people these documents are also available on maristbr.com ( which is a great resource for province information and links to the greater Marist Institute).**

**A MARIST GATHERING**  
**“TO MAKE JESUS KNOWN AND LOVED”**  
**MEETING 1: HOW ARE WE MARIST IN OUR LIVES TODAY?**

After a time of socializing, eating, catching up....gather in a circle for prayer and reflection.

**CALL TO PRAYER:**

O God, be with us as we pray. Remind us of your love, the love that weaves in and around and among us. The love that we are called to bring into this world, as the example of Marcellin Champagnat has shown us.

**AMEN.**

**CANTICLE**

**All:** St. Marcellin saw every occasion as an opportunity for lifting up his heart to the Lord. His soul broke out in acts of love, praise, and thanksgiving.

**Leader:** Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

**All:** Praise and exalt God above all forever.



**#MillionMarists**

**QUOTES FROM MARIST DOCUMENTS**

Read and reflect on the following quotes.

After some quiet time, share your thoughts on the quote that spoke to you and how it speaks to how you live out the Marist charism today.

*The story of our spirituality is indeed a simple one. It is a story of women and men who find within a thirst that only God can quench.*

Water from the Rock.

*All the people and events of our life offer an opportunity to encounter our merciful God.*

Water from the Rock.

*We thank God for the gift of being part of the Marist family which speaks a thousand languages and has one single heart.*

Gathered Around the Same Table

*To some of us, God has touched us and given us a Marist heart. We cannot live any other way: We are MARIST!*

Gathered Around the Same Table

*Following the example of Jesus, Mary and Marcellin, we meet and walk together, sharing and helping each other grow in faith and the mission.*

Gathered Around the Same Table

*Marist is not something that you practice in particular places or at particular times, but something that you embrace and live out all of the time wherever you are. It is, in fact, a way of life.*

Gathered Around the Same Table

*Marcellin and the first brothers lived in the Spirit. The Marist tradition has gathered their experiences their teaching, their inheritance, and continues to transmit it, from generation to generation, in a faithful and renewed way. The spring of this tradition is today a mighty river that renews people and cultures from all over the world. We Lay Marists also contribute to it, bringing our own experience of God.*

Gathered Around the Same Table

**CLOSING PRAYER: Offer intentions and close with The Memorare.**

**A MARIST GATHERING**  
**“TO MAKE JESUS KNOWN AND LOVED”**  
**MEETING 2: A REMINDER OF THE STORIES**

After a time of socializing, eating, catching up....gather in a circle for prayer and reflection

**CALL TO PRAYER:**

O God, be with us as we pray. Remind us of your love, the love that weaves in and around and among us. The love that we are called to bring into this world, as the example of Marcellin Champagnat has shown us.

**AMEN.**

**CANTICLE**

**All:** St. Marcellin saw every occasion as an opportunity for lifting up his heart to the Lord. His soul broke out in acts of love, praise, and thanksgiving.

**Leader:** Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.

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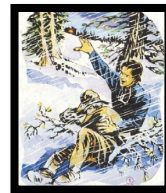
**ALL:** Glory to God, our Creator, God, our redeemer and the Holy Spirit  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**MARIST DECADE OF THE ROSARY** Say the Hail Mary, after each reading.

1. Born in 1789, year of French Revolution, the child Marcellin runs away from school after watching another student fiercely disciplined by the teacher. *Let us pray for children throughout the world that they enjoy a right to education. Let us remember all of our students especially the least favored.*



2. After working as a shepherd to earn his studies, Marcellin also earns a place in the Lyons Seminary where he meets like-minded seminarians who wished to create a Society of Mary and to rebuild the Church with a Marian Face. These men would be the earliest co-founders of the Marist Family dream, Colin, Courveille, Terrailion, who made their pledge to Notre Dame de Fourvière. *Let us pray for the Marist family throughout the world.*
  
3. St. Marcellin's ordination and first assignment and his encounter with a dying young man who did not know God, Montagne. Marcellin commits himself to make Jesus Christ known and loved among young people. *Let us pray that we all feel called to the Marist Mission to make Jesus known and loved among poor children and young people.*
  
4. St. Marcellin's invitation to two young men, "WE NEED BROTHERS" to form the first community at LaValla, January 2, 1817. Soon many young men join this humble community and after brief training are sent out to rural parishes to teach children. *Let us pray for an increase of vocations, both lay and vowed, to all Church ministries.*
  
5. The Vocation Crisis of 1822. Initial fervor diminishes; simple community life and training young teachers demand much energy. St. Marcellin prays to Notre Bonne Mère, our ordinary resource for help. *Let us pray for the energy and enthusiasm to seek new beginnings as Marists in this Third Century.*
  
6. The Memorare in the Snow 1823. Trapped in a snowstorm, saved by a light after a desperate prayer to Mary. St. Marcellin is more convinced that Mary will watch over us always. *Let us pray for our Marist Family throughout the world especially those in violent and dangerous areas.*

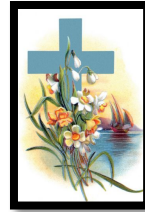


7. The Building of the Hermitage 1824. The community and ministry are thriving; more living and training space is needed. Out of the rock, Marcellin and the Brothers chisel out stone to build a house large enough to meet their needs along the banks of the Gier. *Let us pray for all the new Marist communities and Christian communities throughout the world especially in developing nations.*





8. The Society of Mary is recognized by the Church; the Marist dream begins. Brothers sent to Oceania 1836, our first missionary teaching Brothers. *Let us pray for Pope Francis, all of our Bishops who welcome the Marist Brothers into their Diocese, for all our benefactors and those who assist our mission.*
9. Although Father Marcellin Champagnat died in 1840, one of the first early brothers and devoted community member with St. Marcellin, Blessed Brother Francois is elected as 1st Superior General (1839) *Let us pray for all of our family members, living and deceased, for all of our brothers and Marist Lay Colleagues who have passed away.*



10. The Marist Brothers of the Schools, receive French government approval on June 20, 1851; then Vatican recognition 9<sup>th</sup> January 1863. In our history to the present, over 30,000 men have professed public vows as Marist Brothers, our Marist mission has educated millions of children and will continue into a Third Century. *Let us pray for all our Marist Brothers, Br. Emili, our Superior General, our General Council, our Lay Marist Colleagues, our Affiliates...with great praise and thanksgiving to God and to Mary, our Good mother.*



**Take some time to reflect on the pieces of the Marist story, as told in this decade of the Rosary.  
Which speaks to you the most?**

CLOSING PRAYER: Offer intentions and leave them in the hands of Jesus , through Mary .

**FIRST STAR OF EVENING**

Leader: Mother of the Weary,  
Grant me your evening blessing.  
Rock my spirit into peacefulness.  
Nest in the home of my heart  
And cradle my life in your love.

**ALL: First Star of the Evening,  
Be the strong light in my heart.  
Shine brightly while I slumber.  
Abide with me in tender vigilance,  
So that I will arise in the morning  
With my soul awakened to your love.**

***Amen.***

Leader: And may the Lord bless us; protect us from all evil,  
And bring us to everlasting life.

***Amen.***

**A MARIST GATHERING**  
**“TO MAKE JESUS KNOWN AND LOVED”**  
**MEETING 3: LET ME DREAM**

After a time of socializing, eating, catching up....gather in a circle for prayer and reflection

**CALL TO PRAYER:**

O God, be with us as we pray. Remind us of your love, the love that weaves in and around and among us. The love that we are called to bring into this world, as the example of Marcellin Champagnat has shown us.

**AMEN.**

**CANTICLE**

**All: St. Marcellin saw every occasion as an opportunity for lifting up his heart to the Lord. His soul broke out in acts of love, praise, and thanksgiving.**

**Leader: Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.**

**All: Praise and exalt him above all forever.**



**From the statement of the New Marists in Mission Assembly, Nairobi, Kenya, 2014**

On the threshold of the bicentenary Marist Institute, we have started to write a new story together, one in which our being prophets and mystics in a spirit of communion will become the characteristics by which we recognise ourselves as Marists of St Marcellin Champagnat, and so also we are recognised by others. Following on from the *I Marist International Mission Assembly in Mendes (Brazil)*, we were called to be *New Marists in Mission*, and so we have explored new expressions of the Marist charism that beckon from the horizon of our third century.

***Our dream is that people will recognise that we Marists of Champagnat are MYSTICS because:***

we accompany people in their inner lives, in their spirituality and in their prayer, and involve ourselves in processes that foster this;

we make visible the Marian face of the Church.

***Our dream is that people will recognise that we Marists of Champagnat are PROPHETS because:***

- with courage and determination, we are opting for our educational works (schools, universities, social centres, etc.) to be platforms of evangelisation, and to promote an education that is inclusive, committed, compassionate, and transformative;
- we are accompanying people in Marist Youth Ministry programmes to ensure that they and their programmes are forming prophets and evangelisers for our time.



***Our dream is that people will recognise that we Marists of Champagnat are men and women who live in COMMUNION because:***

- we are implementing processes and structures to accompany our different ways of responding to this call to be Marist, leading to new ways of associating and belonging within the Marist charism;
- we are creating new structures that promote genuine participation and co-responsibility in decision-making;

SHARING: Which of these “dreams” speaks most to you right now? Are there ways to make these dreams a reality?

Share some thoughts on what it might mean to live out that dream in your daily life? What would help you to do so?

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

**Bring your concerns, worries and thanks to Mary, our Good Mother and pray together The Memorare (slightly revised):**

***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 with this confidence, I fly unto you, Mary, my Good Mother***

***To you do I come, before you I stand, confident of your love for me.***

***O Mother of the Word incarnate, despise not my petitions,***

***But in your mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.***