

Blessing Prayer of the Three Violets Chapel

Call to Prayer – As we bring our week to a close, we go back to the beginning, when we invoked the Holy Spirit – to enliven this mission encounter with our God.

Each day, we invited the Holy Spirit to nourish us, to break open our hearts, to come into our lives and our work.

We were about building a chapel – a place of contemplation, prayer and peace.

So today, we take this time to bless it as we go. To bless each other, to bless our work and to bless the work of Ellen and Josh, at Holy Cross parish and here at Magnificat Farm. We particularly ask blessings on John and Marcus and Ed,

Our energy is in this place – and to symbolize that, we will each take a stone, found around the grounds, and mark it – with our names and with one word of blessing for Magnificat Farm and The Violet Chapel.

Spend the first few minutes of the song, just looking around – at the your handiwork in the chapel, at the beauty of the surroundings, at each other. Listen to the sounds of the birds, feel the breeze, gaze at the beautiful chapel, nestled into the trees.

After a moment of contemplation, mark your stone and bring it up to Ellen or Josh. Share your blessing with them.

Opening Song/Blessings: Ceremonial for the Common Hours

Matthew 7:24-25

Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.

The Offering of Gifts – O God, as we reflect on our work this week, we call to mind our Marist charism and the five pillars with which we strive to live our lives. We present these gifts to Ellen and Josh as a remembrance of the Marist energy here in this place.

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Reader 1: Lord, as we reflect on the Pillar of **Presence**, let us remember always that: This week, we have cared for each other and nurtured relationships founded on love. We have been attentive and welcoming. We have fostered a sense of openness.

(Bring forth the relic of St Marcellin Champagnat)

ALL Let this represent the presence of our founder, brought to this place, to bless it, that it continue to be holy ground for all who encounter God here. May presence always bless this chapel

Reader 2: Lord, as we reflect on the Pillar of **Simplicity**, let us remember that:

This week, we have been inspired by Ellen and Josh, seeing how they live their beliefs in a genuine and straightforward manner. Help us to seek humility and modesty, ‘do good quietly’, encourage simplicity as a value in our lives, and not seduced by possessions and fame.

(Bring forth the statue of Marcellin Champagnat)

ALL: Let this be a reminder of the inspiration we take from this man, our founder, to make simplicity a virtue of our own. May simplicity bless this chapel.

Reader 3: Lord, as we reflect on the Pillar of **Family Spirit**, let us remember: how we related to each other as the members of a loving family, how we built community, offered a warmth of welcome and belonging, how we shared the successes and failures, and treated one another with gentleness and love.

(Bring forth the donors’ plaque.)

ALL: Let this plaque be a reminder of all who supported us, with donations, with prayer and with love. The members of the Marist family around the province, who are also present here in spirit. May generosity and family spirit continue to bless this chapel.

Reader 4: Lord, as we reflect on the Pillar of the **Love of Work**, remind us that: This week, we have been people of work, ‘rolling up our sleeves’. Help us to continue, as we go forth from here, to work with total confidence in You, being generous of heart, constant and persevering in our daily work. Help us to be visionary and decisive in meeting the needs of our communities.

(Bring forth the rock from L’Hermitage.)

[Type here]

ALL: Just as the early brothers, also young people, worked under harsh conditions to build the Hermitage, so we, too, persevered through wind and rain and mud. Let this rock serve as a blessing on all of the work that will be done here at Magnificat Farm. May love of work continue to bless this chapel.

Reader 5: Lord, as we reflect on the Pillar of **living In the Way of Mary**, as we worked on Magnificat Farm, we remember that Mary's Magnificat was a prayer of praise, as well as a challenge to each of us to love tenderly, to act justly and to walk humbly with our God. Let us look to Mary as a woman on a journey of Faith --that we join her in our own journey. Help us to imitate Mary's tenderness, strength and constancy of faith. Help us to see Mary as a perfect model of being Marist – as an exemplar of the Christian life, the first disciple of Jesus

(Bring forth the lantern)

ALL: The lantern in the snowstorm is a reminder of Marcellin's trust in Mary. This will always be an example to us, a reminder to place our trust in Mary's help. May this lantern serve as a reminder of the saving light. And may Mary's presence always serve as a blessing for this chapel.

Blessing of the Chapel

Everyone will cluster around Ellen and Josh, as they sprinkle the chapel with Holy Water from the creek.

SONG: Holy Is Your Name

CLOSING PRAYER:

ALL: O God of new beginnings, God of Love – send us forth from this place – nourished by your love. With a few aches and pains, but with full hearts. We have much to do in our world. Keep us steady on the path and let us always be

[Type here]

guided by the movements of the Spirit. We praise you and thank you. AMEN!

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