

MARIST CALENDAR

**Marist Prayer Book
And
Religious Calendar - 2010**

Province of South Asia

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January

Intentions of the Holy Father

General: That young people may learn to use modern means of social communication for their personal growth and to better prepare themselves to serve society.

Missionary: That every believer in Christ may be conscious that unity among all Christians is a condition for more effective proclamation of the Gospel.

1st Friday : Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, The Mother of God.

World Day of Peace

Office : Proper of the Feast

Readings : Num : 6:22-27, Galatians: 4:4-7, Lk.:2:16-22

Intentions: That we integrate our life experiences with our spirituality.

Community at Holy Cross College, Kalutara

Reflection : Water from the Rock

Throughout life, our inner spiritual reality interacts dynamically with the experiences we undergo. On the one hand, what we term our *spirituality* is moulded as we embrace the experiences of our lives. On the other, this spirituality shapes the way we understand and relate to the world, to people and to God. When we speak of Christian spirituality we refer to that unquenchable fire that burns within, filling us with passion for the building of the Kingdom of God. This becomes the driving force of our lives as we allow the Spirit of Christ to lead us. Any Christian living this way grows in holiness.

2nd Saturday: **Foundation of the Institute - 1817**

St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen

Office : Proper of Christmastide 2nd January & Psalter Week 1

Readings : 1 Jn. 2:22-28, Jn. 1:19-28

Intentions : Community at Nugegoda

That our hearts may be filled with passion for God and compassion for people

Anniversaries / Birthdays : Birthday of Br. Victor

Final Vows of Sales & Michael (1987), Sumith (1988)

Reflection : Water from the Rock

The story of our spirituality is one of passion and compassion, passion for God and compassion for people. (1)

3rd Sunday : **Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord**

Office : Proper of the Feast

Readings : Is. 60:1-6, Eph.3: 2-3a, 5-6, Mt. 2:1-12

Intentions : Community at Trichy

That we reach out to the poor living around us

Reflection : Water from the Rock

Like Mary setting out in haste to the hill country, each week they(our early brothers) went out into the surrounding hamlets to make Jesus known and loved. They cared for poor children and welcomed them into their home. (5)

4th Monday

Office : Proper - Monday after Epiphany, Psalter Wk. 2

Readings : 1 Jn. 3: 22-4:6, Mt. 4:12-17, 23-25

Intentions : Novices & Community at Marist Novitiate, Tudella

Our disease brothers, parents, benefactors and Affiliated members.

Reflection : Water from the Rock

The group's way of living the Gospel was a reflection of the character, values, and spirituality of its leader, Marcellin Champagnat. His spirituality was deeply influenced by his own personality. His first disciples remembered with affection the Marcellin they knew: open, frank, resolute, courageous, enthusiastic, constant and equable. His whole life gave witness of a person with a practical disposition, a man of action, and of humility. This enabled him to draw together from various sources a simple and down-to-earth spirituality. (6)

5th Tuesday : St. John Neumann, Bishop

Office : Tuesday after Epiphany

Readings : 1 Jn. 4:7-10, Mark 6:34-44

Intentions : Community at Peshawar

For Internally displaced people in Sri Lanka & Pakistan

Reflection : Water from the Rock

Key among the formative influences that shaped his spirituality was Marcellin's personal experience of being loved intensely by Jesus and called by Mary. An incident early in 1823 ("Memorare in the Snow"*) was understood by Marcellin

and his Brothers as highly significant. Marcellin and Stanislaus were lost in a snow storm. With his companion unconscious at his feet, Marcellin believed that *if Mary does not come to our aid, we are lost.*¹⁷ Placing his life in God's hands, he prayed the *Memorare*. His prayer to Mary was miraculously answered. Marcellin and his first Brothers saw in this incident a deeper reality: God's choice of them to share in the same mission that was entrusted to Mary.(7)

6th Wednesday

Office : Wednesday after Epiphany

Readings : 1 Jn. 4: 11-18, Mark 6:45-52

Intentions : Community at Mangamanuthu

For religious and ethnic minorities in South Asia

Anniversaries : 1956 – First vows of Bros Gregory Appuhamy & Linus

1814 – Marcellin was ordained a sub deacon in Lyons

Reflection : Water from the Rock

Marcellin was also deeply aware of the love of Jesus and Mary for others. This inspired in him the passion of an apostle. He dedicated his life to sharing this love. In Marcellin's encounter with the dying young man, Jean-Baptiste Montagne*, we see how disturbed Marcellin was to meet a boy facing the end of his life without knowing the love God had for him.(8)

7th Thursday : St. Raymond of Penyafort, Abbot & Confessor

Office : Thursday after Epiphany

Readings : 1 Jn. 4:19-5:4, Lk. 4:14-22

Intentions : Community at Tudella Farm & Marist Postulents

That we become streams of living water to the youth we work with

Birthdays : Br. Arun Frank

Reflection : Water from the Rock

In living our spirituality we find our thirst quenched at the streams of "living water." In turn we become "living water" for others. (14)

8th Friday

Office : Friday after Epiphany

Readings : 1 Jn. 5: 5-13, Lk. 5:12-16

Intentions : Community at Maris Stella College

Community superiors

Anniversary : 1957 – First vows of Br. Joseph Fonseka

Reflection : Water from the Rock

We are inspired by the vision and lives of Marcellin and his first disciples as we journey to God. While we share such a pilgrimage with many, we are conscious of our own distinctive style. We are gifted to share in that transforming experience of being, with Mary, loved unconditionally by Jesus. From this flow the particular characteristics of our manner of being followers of Champagnat. (15)

9th Saturday

Office : Saturday after Epiphany

Readings : 1 Jn. 5:14-21, Jn. 3:22-30

Intentions : Community at Sargodha

That we place our complete trust in God

Anniversary : 1863 – Pope Pius IX formally approved the Constitutions of the Marist Brothers.

1902 – A process leading to Marcellin's canonization was begun

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(17) Marcellin's relationship with God, combined with knowledge of his limitations, explains his unbounded confidence in God. The depth of this trust amazed those who worked with him, and scandalized some who judged his actions as reckless. In his humble way, Marcellin saw God at work, and so acted with courage and commitment. *Let us not offend God, asking him very little. The bigger is our demand, the more we will be pleasing to God.*²² Marcellin's oft-expressed invocations *If the Lord does not build the house*²³ and *You know my God*²⁴ were the spontaneous expressions of this confident trust.

10th Sunday : Feast – Baptism of the Lord

Office : Proper of the feast

Readings : Is. 42:1-4, 6-7, Acts 10:34 – 38, Lk. 3:15-16, 21-22

Intentions : Community at P. Udayapatti

For young boys interested in our way of life

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(19) Marcellin taught the first Brothers: *To make Jesus known and loved is the aim of our vocation and the whole purpose of the Institute. If we were to fail in this purpose, our congregation would be useless.*²⁵ In saying this, Marcellin clearly expressed his conviction, and a growing conviction for Marists today – the centrality of Jesus in our life and mission.

End of Christmastide

11th Monday : First Week in Ordinary Time

Office : Week I

Readings : 1 Samuel 1:1-8, Mk. 1:14-20

Intentions : Community at Marcellin Nivasa

That we be faithful to the charism of the founder

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(20 & 21) For us Jesus is the human face of God.²⁷ In a privileged way we encounter him in the three special Marist places, where Jesus reveals God to us. *At the Crib we find the innocence, simplicity, gentleness and even weakness of a God who is capable of touching the hardest of hearts. ... There is no room for fear of a God who became a child.*²⁹ We come to know a God who has pitched his tent in our midst, and whom we call "brother."

12th Tuesday

Readings : 1 Samuel 1:9-20 , Mk. 1:21-28

Intentions : Community at Haldanduwana

That we have the gift of living in the present

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(22) At the foot of the Cross, we are in awe of a God who loves us without reserve. We find a God who shares the physical and psychological suffering, betrayal, abandonment and violence experienced by humanity, and transforms these experiences. There we enter the mystery of redemptive suffering and learn humble fidelity in love. The crucified Christ is the sign and deepest expression of a God who is love.

13th Wednesday : St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

Readings : 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20, Mk. 1:29-39

Intentions : Community at Boys Town, Rawalpindi

That we listen to the signs of the times

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(23) At the Altar, the Eucharist, we find a privileged place to enter into communion with the Body of Christ: to stand as one with all who are members and to deepen our relationship with the living presence of Jesus in our lives. The celebration of the Eucharist, and prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, were intense experiences of God for Marcellin. Experiencing the Eucharist as the source and summit of the Christian life leads us to the heart of the Marist's spirituality.

14th Thursday

Readings : 1 Samuel 4:1-11, Mk. 1:40-45

Intentions : Community at Kalpitiya

For vocations to Marist way of life

Anniversary : 1978 – Final vows of Br. Anthony Francis

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(26) *We share in the spiritual motherhood of Mary* as we take our part in bringing Christ-life to the world of those whose lives we share. We nurture that life in the ecclesial community, whose communion we strengthen through fervent prayer and generous service.

15th Friday

Readings : 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22, Mk. 2:1-12

Intentions : Community at St. Mary's Chilaw

For our lay partners

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(27) *Our attitudes towards young people find their inspiration in Mary.* In contemplating Mary in the Scriptures we impregnate ourselves with her spirit. We go without delay into the "hill country" of the lives of young people, bringing them news of the justice and faithful mercy of God. By relating to young people in a Marial manner, we become the face of Mary to them.

16th Saturday : Bl. Joseph Vaz, Apostle of Sri Lanka

Readings : 1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19, Mk. 2:13-17

Intentions : Our brothers at MAPAC
Br. Provincial & Council

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(30) Marcellin and the first Brothers were united in heart and mind. Their relationships were marked by warmth and tenderness. In their discussions about living together as Brothers they found it useful to compare the spirit of their community life to that of a family. Like our early communities, we are inspired by the home of Nazareth to develop those attitudes that make family spirit a reality: *love and forgiveness, support and help, forgetfulness of self, openness to others, and joy.*³⁸ This style of relating has become a characteristic of our way of being Marist.

17th Sunday : 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St. Anthony, Abbot)

Day for developing Jewish-Christian religious dialogue

Office : Week 2

Readings : Is. 62:1-5, 1 Cor 12: 4-11, John 2:1-12

Intentions : Students and staff at Electro, Negombo

That we be brothers to all

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(31) From our family spirit develops a spirituality that is strongly relational and affective. Marcellin's preferred ways of relating to God and to Mary were through familial terms: Jesus in his "Sacred Heart," Mary as "Our Good Mother." The relationships he encouraged among the Brothers, and between the Brothers and their students were described in similarly fraternal and loving ways. Among today's Marists, with the expanded presence of women, the image of sister has enriched the ways Marists relate, and define their ministry. Essentially, our relationship to one another is being brother and sister.

18th Monday : Second week in Ordinary Time

Office : Week 2

Readings : 1 Samuel 15:16-23 Mk. 2:18-22

Intentions : Students and staff at Maris Stella College

That we become persons of integrity

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(33) At the heart of Marist spirituality coming from Marcellin and the first Brothers is humility. It expresses itself in simplicity of behaviour, most especially in our way of relating to God and to others. We strive to be persons of integrity - truthful, open-hearted and transparent in our relationships.

19th Tuesday

Readings : 1 Samuel 16: 1-13, Mk. 2:23-28

Intentions : Students and staff at St. John Vienny School, Peshawar

That we approach young people with simplicity

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(35) Young people are attracted to this simple spirituality. The images of God we offer them, and the language, experiences and symbolism we use, are accessible and touch the heart. The more our evangelisation and catechesis are rooted in our distinctive Marist spirituality, the more effective they become.

20th Wednesday : St. Fabian, Pope & Martyr , St. Sebastian, Martyr

Readings : 1 Samuel 17:32-33,37, 40-51 Mk.3:1-6

Intentions : Students & Staff at Holy Cross College, Kalutara

That we not fall into the temptation of consumerism

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(38) This same spirit encourages us to develop a simple style of life. This implies that we avoid consumerism, with its accumulation of disposable goods and wasteful use of resources. We choose to be responsible for creation, a precious gift of God to humanity. This attitude encourages us to join with others in actions necessary to preserve our environment, to enhance the harmony between humanity and nature, and to collaborate with the Creator in bringing creation to its fullness.

21st Thursday : St. Agnes Virgin & Martyr

Readings : 1 Samuel 18:6-9, 19:1-7 Mk. 3:7-12

Intentions : Students & Staff at Marcellin HS Mangamanuthu

That preservation of nature be part of our lives

Anniversary : 1996 – Death of Br. Basillio Rueda, 9th SG

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(39) Our desire to be in communion with nature is expressed in a number of ways. The Marist tradition places great value on manual work because it brings us into *direct contact with creation, with other living beings, and with inanimate objects. It involves ... caring for nature, in conserving and transforming it. It teaches ... patience and precision.*⁴¹ As well, such labour affirms both the value of working with our hands and the example of indigenous peoples who live with great respect in close relationship to their land.

22nd Friday : St. Vincent Deacon & Martyr

Readings : 1 Samuel 24:3-21 Mk. 3:13-19

Intentions : Staff & Students at Marist School, P. Udayapatti

That we promote simple lifestyle in ourselves and in society

Anniversary : 1881 – Death of Br. Francois 1st SG

1991 – Pope John Paul II declared Br. Alfano as Venerable

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(40) This love of manual work reveals a wider attitude in the heart of the Marist that encompasses the values of making do, frugality, service, industriousness, and devotedness. In summary – a simple lifestyle. This manner of living comes from a Marist tradition that seeks to live from the work of our hands. This chosen simplicity of life creates a greater capacity to minister with the poor.

23rd Saturday : St. Margaret

Readings : 2 Samuel 1:1-4,11-12,17,19,23-27 Mk. 3:20-21

Intentions : Students & Staff at Boys Town, Rawalpindi

That our daily lives reflect the Marist Spirituality

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(42) Our present age is characterized by a thirst for spirituality. We disciples of Marcellin believe that our way to God is a gift to be shared with the Church and the world. We are invited to join with Mary in a journey of faith. If we are able to give witness in our daily lives to the vitality of this spirituality, people - particularly youth and children - will feel themselves attracted and invited to take it up as their own way to become “living water.”

24th Sunday : 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

(St. Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor of the Church)

Office : Week 3

Readings : Nehemiah 8:2-6, 10 1 Cor. 12:12-30 Lk. 1:1-4, 4:14-21

Intentions : Students and staff of St. Mary's HS, Peshawar

That we be filled with the desire to give flesh to God's good news

Anniversary : 1998 – Final Vows of Bros. Savarimuthu & Sesu

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(43) 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. Having drunk deeply, they find themselves filled with Jesus' own desire – to give flesh to God's Good News. Moved by the Spirit, urged by God's own longing to bring life to the world, we become streams of living water, flowing through the personal, communal, and ministry aspects of our lives.

25th Monday : Conversion of St. Paul

Office : Week 3 or Proper of the Feast

Readings : 2 Samuel 5:1-7,10 Mk. 3:22-30

Intentions : Students and staff of Christ King College, Tudella

That our hearts be open to God's continuous revelation to us

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(44) Life is a mystery that is revealed as it unfolds. Even after many years, much still remains hidden to us. This continual unravelling of our inner depths is dynamic, provoking and challenging - an ongoing invitation to keep on searching.

26th Tuesday : Sts Timothy & Titus, Bishops

Republic Day of India

World Day for people suffering from Leprosy

Readings : 2 Samuel 6:12-15, 17-19 Mk. 3:31-35

Intentions : For the People of India and its government

That we have the courage to face different phases of life

Reflection : Water from the Rock

As we pass through the different phases of life, we experience beauty and ugliness, certainty and doubt. There are times when we feel uplifted, and times when we feel depressed. All of this both attracts and frightens us at the same time. Our hearts long to find happiness, to believe that we can find love and share in the blessings of life. But we also fear hurt and betrayal and so are tentative in our relationships and involvements. We live in a time of fast and far-reaching cultural and social change. Boundaries are shifting and changing, old values are questioned, and practices of the past no longer seem to work. (45,46,47)

27th Wednesday : St. Angela Merici, Virgin

International Holocaust remembrance Day

Readings : 2 Samuel 7:4-17 Mk. 4:1-20

Intentions : Staff & Students at St. Mary's College, Chilaw

That we have an attitude of openness in our search for God

Birthdays : Br. Roshan

Reflection : Water from the Rock

Yearning for something that will make sense of our lives, we search for an idea, a person, an activity that will integrate the different dimensions of living: feelings and desires, relationships and actions, sexuality and loves, rights and responsibilities, hopes and dreams. In such human situations we discover God as the one for whom our hearts really yearn. We realise that this longing is not of our making but primarily the work of God's Spirit within the depths of our being. With trust, we can open ourselves and come to an experience of God. (49,50)

28th Thursday : St. Thomas Aquinas, Doctor of the Church

Readings : 2 Samuel 7:18-19, 24-29 Mk. 4:21-25

Intentions : Students and staff at St. Josephs School, Nugegoda

That we find God in everything

Reflection : Water from the Rock

Daily experiences are special places of encounter with God. We find God's presence in creation, in the events of every day - work and relationships, silence and noise, joys and sorrows, achievements and anguish, tragedy and death. God is revealed to us through those we meet. Young and old people, members of our families and communities, the refugee and prisoner, the sick person and the caregiver, our co-worker and our neighbour, all are mirrors reflecting the God of life and of love. (54,55)

29th Friday : St. Julian

Readings : 2 Samuel 11: 1-10, 13-17 Mk. 4:26-34

Intentions : Marist Community at Holy Cross College

For Bro. Provincial & Council

Anniversary : 1826 -. Fr. Champagnat went to convalesce with Fr. Dervieux at Saint Chamond

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(57) All the people and events of life offer an opportunity to encounter our merciful God. Perhaps we meet God most closely when we are vulnerable and hurting or when we stand by our word despite the cost to ourselves. When we give thanks for the gift of life, when we heal relationships, when we offer and receive forgiveness, when we celebrate the Eucharist and share the Word - all can be moments of grace to meet and know God.

30th Saturday : St. Flavian

Readings : 2 Samuel 12:1-7, 10-17 Mk. 4:35-41

Intentions : Brother Superior General and his leadership Team

That we let God take over our lives with complete trust

Anniversary : 1948 – Mahatma Gandhi, apostle of non-violence was martyred

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(51) Mary is surprised by the forceful entry of God into her life. She is afraid. Then she comes to be at peace because of her intuition of the presence and love of God for her. Without having all the answers to her questioning, she trusts and commits herself to a God who inspires trust.

31st Sunday : 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

(St. John Bosco, Priest)

Office : Week 4

Readings : Jer. 1:4-5, 17-19 1 Cor. 12:31- 13:13 LK. 4:21-30

Intentions : Marist Community at Nugegoda

That we understand the meaning of our lives as Marists
Anniversary : 1950 – Creation of the Marcellin Champagnat Missionary Union

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(60) *God chooses individual men and women and calls each of them by name. He leads them into the desert and there he speaks to their hearts. ... By his Spirit, he transforms them constantly leading them more deeply into his love in order to send them out on mission.* The more we come to know God, the more we come to know the deepest meaning of our lives. We grow in the knowledge that we are part of God's project for the world.

February

Intentions of the Holy Father

General: For all scholars and intellectuals, that by means of sincere search for the truth they may arrive at an understanding of the one true God.

Missionary: That the Church, aware of its own missionary identity, may strive to follow Christ faithfully and to proclaim His Gospel to all peoples.

1st Monday : 4th Week in Ordinary Time

Office : Week 4

Readings : 2 Samuel 15:13-14, 30, 16:5-13 Mk. 5:1-20

Intentions : Marist Community at Trichy

That we be faithful to our search for God through our life experiences

Birthdays : Br. Ranjith Perera

Reflection : Water from the Rock

This journey of discovery has many twists and turns. At times we struggle with our fears and doubts, as Mary did at the Annunciation. Yet, in each moment of our search God remains faithful and always present, continually inviting us to see our lives through God's eyes. People make this journey of life in many and varied ways, with different rhythms and intensities. Each has a unique way of discovering the meaning of their life and of choosing their response. No matter how they engage in their personal life journey, no matter how many detours they choose to follow, there is always the opportunity to meet and know God. (61,62)

2nd Tuesday : Presentation of the Lord

World Day for Consecrated Life

Office : Proper of the Feast

Readings : Malachi 3:1-4, Hebr. 2:14-18, Lk. 2:22-40

Intentions : For religious sisters, brothers and priests

That we be faithful to our consecration

Birthdays : Br. Clinton Perera

Reflection : Water from the Rock

Marcellin sees God in all things and believes all things come from God. He experiences God's presence in both the tranquillity of the Hermitage* and the noisy streets of Paris. For him, every place and circumstance constitute an opportunity to meet God. Like Marcellin, we can find God in every situation. Our faith does not limit the experience of God to moments of prayer or "sacred" places. We can experience God's love in all of our life. From this viewpoint, *the world is no longer considered an obstacle and becomes instead a place of encounter with God, of mission and of sanctification.* **(63,64)**

3rd Wednesday : St. Blaise – Bishop & Martyr & St. Ansgar – Bishop

Readings : 2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17 Mk. 6:1-6

Intentions : Mission Ad Gentes Communities in Asia

For children with learning difficulties in our schools

Anniversary : 2001 – Final Vows of Br. Sooriya

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(69) Jesus shows us how deeply God is touched by the needs and pain of people, especially the "little ones" of life. As our lives become more centred in our relationship with God, we too are filled with God's compassion and are drawn into service of those in need, especially among young people.

4th Thursday : Our Lady of Lanka (Solemnity for Sri Lanka)

Independence Day – Sri Lanka

Readings : 1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12 Mk. 6:7-13

Intentions : For integration of different religious and ethnic groups in Sri Lanka
For brothers working in Sri Lanka

Reflection : Water from the Rock

Today's world deeply needs men and women who are mystics – people who are able to touch the mystery of all life, in an attitude of openness and surrender. Having experienced the love of God, they are witnesses of light among their fellow pilgrims, inspiring them to seek God. The mystic believes that the Holy Spirit is always present and at work in the world. The Spirit gives meaning to life and our participation in the mission of Jesus. (71,72)

5th Friday : St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr

Readings : Ecclesiasticus 47:2-11 Mk. 6:14-29

Intentions : Community at Marist Novitiate, Tudella
For our community superiors

Reflection : Water from the Rock

As mystics we perceive "the footprints of God" in all the events of life. Through a reading of our reality in faith, we are taken beyond appearances and surface meanings, and brought into the depths of each situation. Our prayer becomes, *Oh Lord, how great is your love!* And with a deep trust that comes from knowing we are profoundly loved, we confidently open our hearts to God's will. To welcome God in this way, we need to develop an attitude of openness. With God's help we grow into being an attentive listener to life, reflective and perceptive when reviewing the events of our life, and generous in responding to the invitations of the Spirit contained within the substance of our days. (73,74)

6th Saturday : St. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs

Readings : 1 Kings 3:4-13 Mk. 6:30-34

Intentions : Marist community at Peshawar
Rainbow Project, India

Anniversary : 1993 – Final vows of Chinnapan & Jayaraj
That we become alert to the signs of the times

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(75) Like Mary, who ponders events in her heart, we are *constantly alert to the signs of the time, to the calls of the Church, and to the needs of youth*. In this way we can *understand the sacramental meaning of events, people, and things which are for us a meeting place with God*. This was Marcellin's understanding of his encounter with the dying boy, Jean-Baptiste Montagne.

7th Sunday : 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Office : Week 1

Readings : Is. 6:1-8 1 Cor. 15:1-11 Lk. 5:1-11

Intentions : Community at Mangamanuthu
That we take interest in animating community life

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(83) Our community prayer offers us the opportunity to share in faith what we live in our mission. Each one's presence helps create a sense of communion that enables us to bring into prayer our dreams, achievements, struggles, personal experiences, and community or family projects. Communal days of recollection *renew the interior unity of our active life*.⁶² Community prayer is a special place for us to discern and jointly make our choices for mission. We create communal spaces where we are helped to experience and celebrate the guidance which Mary gives to our lives.

8th Monday : St. Jerome Emiliani

Office : Week 1

Readings : 1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13 Mk 6:53-56

Intentions : Community at Our Lady's Hermitage
Young men in our pre novitiate formaton

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(84) We share our faith in many different ways: the witness of our lives, our prayers and rituals, the choices we make, and prophetic stands that we take on behalf of the voiceless. We support and nurture each other by sharing our faith in conversations that help us to name together those things that are vital for our common life.

9th Tuesday

Readings : 1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30 Mk. 7:1-13

Intentions : Community at Maris Stella College
That we live Eucharist lives

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(86) Eucharist is at the centre of our lives.⁶³ It is far more than the ritual or the sacrament. Living Eucharistically describes the process that underpins the spiritual life and our engagement in mission: gathered, blessed, broken and shared. When we gather to celebrate this gift of Jesus we are in communion with all people, especially poor people, and with all creation. Nurtured, we feel impelled to go out as the "body of Christ" to celebrate and continue to build God's Kingdom.

10th Wednesday : St. Scholastica , Virgin

Readings : 1 Kings 10: 1-10 Mk 7:14-23

Intentions : Community at Sargodha

Thanking God for the countless blessings He has showered on us

Birthdays : Br. Benedict Wijesooriya

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(88) We pray in all situations, with creativity and generosity. No matter the difficulties and struggles of daily life, no matter the limitations and injustices we live with, we continue to see the blessings of God upon us and those we love. Like Mary in her Magnificat prayer, we are grateful to *God who has blessed us*.

11th Thursday : Our Lady Of Lourdes

World Day of the Sick

Readings : 1 Kings 11:4-13 Mk. 7:24-30

Intentions : Community at P. Udayapatti

That our self-giving enriches our life together in communities

Birthdays : Br. Gregory Appuhamy

Reflection : Water from the Rock

Both Jesus and Marcellin Champagnat*, in their spiritual testaments, chose to invite their followers to communion and community. Jesus expressed this invitation while sharing the last supper with his disciples. The table of the Lord has since become a central symbol of communion and self-giving for Christianity. For the community today that Marcellin created, the table at La Valla* is also a powerful symbol of family and service. Made by Champagnat himself, that table may be seen as the embodiment of his efforts to create a community dedicated to the Lord. Furthermore, to share more intimately with the first Brothers, the Founder abandoned the relative comfort of the presbytery to live with those first Brothers. Life-together, expressed through family spirit, is an integral part of his vision. (91,92)

12th Friday

Readings : 1 Kings 11:29-32, 12:19 Mk. 7:31-37

Intentions : Community at Marcellin Nivasa

That our communities become places we experience love

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(93) At the core of our being we desire to love and be loved. We long for belonging, solidarity, the chance to share our lives and the opportunity to change our circumstances. We unite to create families, to support each other in our ideals, to transform our society. Each family, group or community is uniquely marked by that which unites them, that which lies at the core of their connection.

13th Saturday

Readings : 1 Kings 12:26-32, 13:33-34 Mk. 8:1-10

Intentions : Community at Haldanduwana

For laity who work with us promoting Marist vision

Reflection : Water from the Rock

Jesus' message is simple but challenging: *Love one another as I have loved you*. Jesus not only preaches communion, he lives it. At its heart, Christianity is communion made real in the love of neighbour. In Christ we find that a common mission unites us in community and, in turn, community impels us to mission. As we build communities and set up structures that support their vitality, we must share and live a spirituality. Marist spirituality understands community as an excellent place where both the self and God are revealed to us through others.(95,96)

14th Sunday : 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

(St. Cyril, Monk & Methodius, Bishop) Valentines Day

Office : Week 2

Readings : Jer. 17:5-8 1 Cor. 15:12- 16:20 Lk. 6: 17, 20-26

Intentions : Community at Boy's Town Rawalpindi

Students of Marist Schools

Birthdays : Br. Adaikalam

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(98, 99) Marcellin shows us how we are to form and live in communities of mission. In the very name he chose, *Little Brothers of Mary**, Marcellin summarises the fundamental identity of his community: the gospel virtue of simplicity, the call to fraternity, and the contemplation of the person of Mary. This identity is particularly expressed in the practice of the little virtues.* For Marcellin their practice is a way of living Mary's attitudes in everyday life. He is convinced that these virtues or attitudes are life-giving expressions of love.

15th Monday : 6th Week in Ordinary Time

Office : Week 2

Readings : James 1:1-11 Mk. 8:11-13

Intentions : Community at Kalpitiya

For brothers who find community life difficult

Anniversaries : 2003 – First vows of Bros. Albert, Raj Kumar & Susai

Birthday of late Br. Peter

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(100) Marcellin believes that in constructing a house he is developing a true community.⁷⁶ He finds pleasure in spending the summers at the Hermitage with the Brothers who would return for retreat, rest, formation and encouragement. Through living the rhythm of community life, both at La Valla* and then at the Hermitage*, Marcellin animates and nourishes the community life by his example, giving himself to manual work and to community prayer.

16th Tuesday : St. Gregory (X), Pope

Readings : James 1:12-18 Mk. 8 :14-21

Intentions : Community at Chilaw

That Mary becomes the model for our relationships

Birthdays : Br. Arokiasamy

Reflection : Water from the Rock

In a world thirsty for connection and belonging, home is such a powerful symbol. Families and communities become a crucial place for each one to grow, be sustained, healed and encouraged. All our relationships are enriched when they are lived by taking Mary as the inspiration for our way of being and doing with others. With Mary we learn how to express God's love in all the relationships of our personal and communal living, since from her *we learn how other people are to be loved, and we, in turn, become living signs of the Father's tenderness* (101,102)

17th Wednesday : Ash Wednesday

Beginning of the Lent Season

(The Seven Holy Founders of the Order of Servites)

Office : Proper of Ash Wednesday & Psalter Week 4, Wednesday

Readings : Joel 2:12-18, 2 Cor. 5:20-6:12 Matt. 6:1-6, 16-18

Intentions : That we learn to die to ourselves in order to have new life in Christ

Our Brothers at MAPAC

Anniversaries : 1962 – Final vows of Br. Joseph Fonseka

Reflection : Since Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, it naturally is also beginning to recover a baptismal focus. One hint of this is the second formula that is offered for the imposition of ashes: "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel." Though it doesn't explicitly mention Baptism, it recalls our baptismal promises to reject sin and profess our faith. It is a clear call to conversion, to that movement away from sin and toward Christ that we have to embrace over and over again through our lives. Ash Wednesday calls us to the conversion journey that marks the season. As the catechumens enter the final stage of their preparation for the Easter sacraments, we are all called to walk with them so that we will be prepared to renew our baptismal promises when Easter arrives.

18th Thursday : Thursday after Ash Wednesday

Office : Proper & Week 4

Readings : Deut. 30:15-20 Lk. 9:22-25

Intentions : Marist Schools in Sri Lanka

That we become courageous to take an inner journey into ourselves

Reflection : Lent: More Than Penance, *Most Reverend Daniel E. Pilarczyk*

To think of Lent only as a time of penance is to do it an injustice. While the traditional practice of "doing something" for Lent is praiseworthy, there is much more to this wonderful season than just additional practices of piety or acts of penance and mortification. In Lent the Church calls us to *metanoia*. The word *metanoia* connotes a change of mind and heart, altering one's mind-set toward whole new ways of thinking and acting. This involves taking a look at where we are

and trying to see where we ought to be. It involves testing our values and discerning how they stack up against the values that Jesus offers his followers.

19th Friday : Friday after Ash Wednesday

Readings : Is. 58:1-9 Mt. 9:14-15

Intentions : Marist Schools in India

That we be faithful to our mission, whatever the difficulties we encounter

Reflection : Lent: More Than Penance, *Most Reverend Daniel E. Pilarczyk*

Lent prepares us for Holy Week, for those most sacred days in the Church's year when we celebrate the suffering and death of Jesus, the Lord's gift of himself in obedience to the mission he received from his heavenly Father. Of course, the suffering and death of Jesus—and his resurrection—present questions and challenges to each of us in the context of our own mission as followers of Christ and so in our process of *metanoia*.

20th Saturday : St. Mildred, Abbess

World day of Social Justice

Readings : Is. 58: 9-14 Lk. 5:27-32

Intentions : Marist Community at Kalutara

Students and Staff at Boys Town, Rawalpindi

Reflection : JOAN CHITTISTER

The purpose of Lent is to confront us with ourselves in a way that's conscious and purposeful, that enables us to deal with the rest of life well. It is not a "penitential season." It is a growing season. It requires us to determine what is worth dying for in our own lives and what it may be necessary for us to become if we really want to live.

21st Sunday : 1st Sunday of Lent

(St. Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor of the Church)

International Mother Language Day

Office : Proper of Lent & Psalter Week 1

Readings : Deut. 26:4-10 Rom. 10:8-13 Lk. 4: 1-13

Intentions : Community at Nugegoda

Candidates in our pre novitiate programs

Anniversaries : 2001 – Death of Br. Blasius

2004 – First vows of Rozario, Saul & Suresh

Reflection : JOAN CHITTISTER

Contrary to conventional wisdom, then, Lent is not a series of behaviors. It is a series of questions that, year after year, is designed to measure our progress on the way to fullness of life. The question we are confronted with the First Sunday of Lent this year is a critical one: Do you want to be religious or do you want to be real? Think very carefully before you answer.

22nd Monday : 1st Week of Lent

The Chair of St. Peter, Apostle

Office : Proper of Lent and Psalter Week 1 or Proper of the Feast

Readings : Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18 Mt. 25:31-46

Intentions : Marist Community at Trichy

For the Unity of the Church

Reflection : JOAN CHITTISTER

Sorrow for sins is a universal religious concern. In January 70 million Indians travel to Allahabad, India, to bathe away their sins at the place in the Ganges River where, according to Hindu tradition, the gods spilled a drop of the nectar of creation. Every year Muslims by the millions pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia or keep Ramadan, the great Muslim penitential period. Every Jew hopes to go to the Western Wall in Jerusalem at least once in a lifetime and in the meantime keeps Yom Kippur in their local synagogues. Twenty-five million Christians traveled to Rome to celebrate the Jubilee Year of forgiveness and even more around the world will celebrate Lent which begins Feb. 17 and brings us 40 days for special prayers and fasting. All of us, from all of these traditions, go to these places, practice these rituals, make these sacrifices to renew our separate faiths, to recommit our lives, to be forgiven our sins.

23rd Tuesday : St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr

Readings : Is. : 55:10-11 Mt. 6:7-15

Intentions : Community at Novitiate

For the Province Leadership Team

Anniversary : 2002 – First vows of Br. Johnson

Reflection : JOAN CHITTISTER

We live, in other words, in a religious world, starting with our own. In the United States of America, religion is part and parcel of every presidential inauguration. Chaplains open every session of Congress. Sunday morning television programming on U.S. channels is thick with showings of back-to-back denominational services. Great institutional charities attach to each of the various religious bodies. There are churches in every neighborhood. We inscribe our coins with the reminder "In God we trust." And for Christians, Lenten practices spill over into daily life: Restaurants serve Lenten menus. Children put money in mite boxes. People do public stations everywhere. So how do we explain the gap between the way we practice our faith and the way our world looks?

24th Wednesday

Readings : Jonah 3:1-10 Lk. 11:29-32

Intentions : Marist community at Mangamanuthu

That our lives reflect what we believe

Birthdays : Br. Devasiri

Reflection : JOAN CHITTISTER

Of the three pillars of religion in ancient Judaism -- prayer, fasting and almsgiving -- the voice of Jesus down the ages warns us about being seduced into believing that any of them, by virtue of their own worthiness, is really religious. About those who got their satisfaction out of standing up in the synagogues or praying on the streets, he warned his disciples "When you pray, go into your room alone and pray in secret." To those who gave great alms and in return got great publicity for it, he said, "When you give alms do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing." In regard to those whose fasting was done with public fanfare and feigned distress, he said to his own followers, "When you fast, dress up, look your best." Smile, in other words.

25th Thursday : St. Donatus, Martyr

Readings : Esther 4:17 Mt. 7:7-12

Intentions : Community at Peshawar

That we become what we preach

Anniversary : 1906 – 5 Marist brothers were slain in Nanchang, China

Reflection : JOAN CHITTISTER

Whatever happens to the whole idea of public witness here? The answers to Jesus' condemnation of religion for show are stark ones in a culture where religion is a very public, a very ritualized thing. Religion, real religion, was clearly not, ironically -- at least to the mind of Jesus -- for public display, not for public "witness," not for public gesture. We're left with a problem: Why do it if not as an example to others? And the answer must be that maybe, just maybe, it's not religion as we know it that is supposed to be the example. The real example of religious commitment, it seems, does not come from the rituals we keep. The example lies in what we become because of what we practice. And despite the fact that we are a church-going people, it is more than possible that we have clearly not become real yet.

26th Friday : St. Alexander, Bishop

Readings : Ezekiel 18:21-28 Mt. 5:20-26

Intentions : Community at Our Lady's Hermitage

Students and staff at Electro

Anniversaries Birthdays : Birthday of Br. Alex
1982 – Death of Br. Xavier

Reflection : JOAN CHITTISTER

Corporations hire and fire workers depending on predetermined profit margins. Abortion is for many the birth control method of choice in a society where adoption has never been more popular and less possible. Children kill children because gun control laws are resisted on the grounds that to restrict the ownership and use of guns violates a person's constitutional rights. Surely something of real religion is missing in a religious country no matter how many of us do our private penances. Lent, it seems, loses a little when it's confined to institutional practices and ecclesiastical symbolism

27th Saturday : St. Nestor, Bishop & AMrtyr

Readings : Deut. 26:16-19 Mt. 5:43-48

Intentions : Community at Maris Stella College

That God inspires young men to commit themselves to serve in His vineyard

Reflection : JOAN CHITTISTER

Public religion may be no religion at all, surely a call to each of us to become what we do: to become the heart that is so generous, whose largesse is so reckless that there is no damping the flow in the face of need. To become the remorse that is so deep and the self-knowledge that is so keen that we can't possibly abide destructive criticism of the other --

any other. To become the human beat of the heart of God, to radiate an intimacy so intense that nothing dulls the sense of the presence of God in creation. Clearly, the gap between our private penances and our public world has something to do with what we think Lent is all about. It's about the questions we ask ourselves -- not simply the things we do.

28th Sunday : 2nd Sunday of Lent

(St. Hilarius, Pope, Confessor)

Office : Proper of Lent & Psalter Week 2

Readings : Gen. 15:5-12, 17-18 Phil. 3:17-4:1 Lk. 9:28-36

Intentions : Marist community at Sargodha

That we see God in everyone we meet

Reflection : JOAN CHITTISTER

Jesus calls us to go beyond the practice of religion to the pursuit of the real in me, to wrestle it to the ground, to become at long last what all my public postures say I am. When we have put down the glut of our own lives, we will stand in the rain without knowing we're wet and cry for the unprotected children of our countries. When we ourselves have become sin, we will speak weepingly for those we murder in the name of our righteousness and justice. When we have become the prayer we pray, we will see the face of God in everyone we meet.

March

Intentions of the Holy Father

World Economy

General: That the world economy may be managed according to the principles of justice and equity, taking account of the real needs of peoples, especially the poorest.

The Churches in Africa

Missionary: That the Churches in Africa may be signs and instruments of reconciliation and justice in every part of that continent

1st Monday : 2nd Week of Lent

Office : Proper of Lent & Psalter Week 2

Readings : Daniel 9:4b-10 Lk. 6: 36-38

Intentions : Marist Community at P. Udayapatti

For greater understanding and acceptance of different ethnic and religious groups in our countries

Anniversaries : 1858 – Pope Pius IX gave an audience to Brothers Francois and Louis-Marie

1943 – Br. Alfano died in Ventimiglia

Reflection : JOAN CHITTISTER

The question with which the Lent faces us -- do you want to be religious or do you want to be real -- will become for us the standard for a truly religious life and a sign of the depth of our own spirituality as well. Then, we will, for the first time perhaps, really understand what fueled the self-giving of a Dorothy Day, and the single-minded witness of a Mahatma Gandhi, all of whose lives called entire peoples to the kind of new consciousness that we ourselves in this very religious society need right now. Clearly, this is a gospel that calls for complete transformation of the way we do religion, the way we function as a society, the way we measure spirituality itself.

2nd Tuesday

Readings : Is. 1:10, 16-20 Mt. 23:1-12

Intentions : Community at Marcellin Nvasa

Anniversaries : 1971 – Final vows of Br. Kumarasinghe

1986 – Death of Br. Francis Silva

Reflection : JOAN CHITTISTER

So how do we explain the gap between the way we practice our faith and the way the world looks? G.K. Chesterton says it this way: "Facts as facts do not always create a spirit of reality, because reality is a spirit." All the almsgiving, all the fasting, all the praying in the world will not be real, will not mean a thing, unless it first changes our own hearts into the very spirit of almsgiving and fasting and praying about which we speak. Being real may, in the end, have far greater effect and be far more difficult than simply being religious.

3rd Wednesday

Readings : Jer. 18:18-20 Mt. 20:17-28

Intentions : Marist community at Haldanduwana

That we always seek and follow the will of God

Reflection : JOAN CHITTISTER

"Once upon a time, a seeker went from land to land to discover an authentic religion. Finally, the seeker found a group of extraordinary fame. They were known for the goodness of their lives and for the singleness of their hearts and for the sincerity of their service. "I see everything you do," the seeker said, "and I'm impressed by it. But, before I become your disciple, I have a question to ask: Does your God work miracles?" "Well," the disciples said to the seeker, "it all depends

on what you mean by a miracle. Some people call it a miracle when God does the will of people. We call it a miracle when people do the will of God.”

4th Thursday : St. Casimir

Readings : Jer. 17:5-10 Lk. 16:19-31

Intentions : Community at Boys Town, Rawalpindi

For our postulants and aspirants

Reflection : JOAN CHITTISTER

Of all the questions with which the Lenten journey to the center of the soul confronts us, the one that emerges out of the gospel is a deceptive one, simple at one level, dangerously profound at another. The question is not “What should we do to make ourselves religious?” It is “What should we do to make ourselves holy?”

5th Friday

Readings : Gen. 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28 Mt. 21: 33-43, 45-46

Intentions : Marist community at Kalpitiya

For peace and harmony

Reflection : JOAN CHITTISTER

There is a tension in religion today that swirls around the struggle for authenticity. Is adherence to doctrinal purity the true mark of the committed Christian? Or is it deference to hierarchy? Or does authenticity lie in being citizen Christians whose intention to maintain the Christian world lies in fashioning into law and public structures the theology of one denomination or another: Enshrining the Ten Commandments in every courtroom, for instance, in a pluralistic society; maintaining a common Sabbath and a common religious calendar of holidays. Or does real spirituality lie in withdrawal from the fray into some kind of pious Nirvana where the cares of the day and the questions of the time touch us not?

6th Saturday : St. Colette, Virgin

Readings : Micah 7:14-15, 18-20 Lk. 15:1-3, 11-32

Intentions : Marist Community at St. Mary's, Chilaw

Reflection : JOAN CHITTISTER

The answer, I think, lies in our own story, this one from a scripture (Transfiguration) that is often translated as a glimpse of glory or a case for contemplative withdrawal from the chaos around us but which, I believe, is really an insight into the spirituality of courage. It is a call for the kind of involvement that changes things. It is a commitment to work miracles for the poor and marginalized rather than maintain them in the name of tradition and authority and good order.

7th Sunday : 3rd Sunday of Lent

(Sts. Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs)

Office : Proper of Lent & Psalter Week 3

Readings : Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15 1 Cor. 10:1-6, 10-12 Lk. 13: 1-9

Intentions : Our Brothers in MAPAC

Mission Ad Gentes communities in Asia

Reflection : JOAN CHITTISTER

The story that really makes a difference for us today, I think, is the story of the Transfiguration. Mount Tabor, site of the Transfiguration, is one of those places that is not “on the way” to anywhere. It is steep and rugged and hard to scale. The path that leads to the top of the mountain is hand-hewn out of rock. It is also narrow and dangerous and long: a journey not to be made lightly. Then, at the top, with the exception of the view of the vast, unending plain of Jezreel below -- there is nothing there. It's an out of the way place that has all the character of a dead end. And it is bleak, isolated, stark Mount Tabor to which Jesus took Peter, James and John.

8th Monday : 3rd Week of Lent – St. John of God, Religious

International Women's Day

Office : Proper of Lent & Psalter Week 3

Readings : 2 Kings 5:1-15 Lk. 4: 24-30

Intentions : That we empower women in the places we work

For our diseased brothers, parents, relatives, benefactors and affiliated members

Birthdays : Br. Linus Fernando

Br. Superior General and his leadership team

Reflection : JOAN CHITTISTER

If we want to understand precisely to what kind of Lenten conversion we ourselves are being called we need to do, I think, is to look at Peter, James and John on Tabor. In the first place, Peter, James and John thought they had been called to go up the mountain to be with Jesus alone. So, the scripture says they “left the world” below and went off by

themselves, prepared, apparently, to follow Jesus and find God, to become “contemplative.” But mountains in ancient spiritualities, Judaism included, were always thought of as points of contact with God since they were the places where earth touched heaven. To go “up to a high mountain” -- to which there are eight major references in the Judeo-Christian scriptures -- is always then to be seeking a very special relationship with God.

9th Tuesday : St. Francis of Rome, Religious

Readings : Daniel 3:25, 34-43 Mt. 18:21-35

Intentions : Community at Holy Cross College

That we be faithful to our on going formation

Reflection : JOAN CHITTISTER

If we're going to understand the difference between piety and Christianity, if we're going to be able to make the distinction ourselves between the keeping of Lent and the coming to conversion, it's important to realize four things about transfiguration. In the first place, Peter himself opted first for piety. “Jesus, it's good for us to be here. Let us build three booths.” Let's live in this nice comfortable religious cloud, in other words. Let's institutionalize the mystical. Let's concentrate on the next world. Peter knows a good thing when he sees it and Peter plans to settle down in a nest of pieties and wait. At the very moment of his deepest revelation and clearest call, in other words, Peter decides that the spiritual life has something to do with building temples and keeping the rituals and enlarging the facilities and floating above the fray. Indeed, if there is a temptation in Christianity, it is probably the temptation to play church. To recite the prayers without becoming them. And therein lies the second significant dimension of the story: No sooner has Peter decided to be a church bureaucrat, a weekday mystic, an office manager, than the irony of the situation shocks us all: Scripture dashes the entire thought in mid-air. “While he was still speaking,” the scripture records, “The voice of God said, ‘This is my son ... Listen!’ ”

10th Wednesday

Readings : Deut. 4:1, 5-9 Mt. 5:17-19

Intentions : Marist community at Nugegoda

That we commit ourselves to serve the least favoured

Reflection : JOAN CHITTISTER

The fourth and determining development in the story implies very clearly why they had a right to expect the impossible. Jesus, you see, didn't appear to Peter, James and John with David the king, or with Aaron the priest. Jesus didn't show himself to the disciples with those who interpreted the law or with those who maintained its temples in society. Jesus didn't reveal his work as either royalty or ritual. No, Jesus identified himself on Tabor with Moses and Elijah. With Moses who had led people out of oppression, and with Elijah whom King Ahab called “that troublemaker of Israel,” -- the one who condemned Israel's compromise between true and false gods -- the one, in other words, who exposed to the people the underlying causes of their problems.

11th Thursday

Readings : Jer. 7:23-28 Lk. 11:14-23

Intentions : Marist Community at Trichy

That we proclaim the good news with passion

Birthdays : Br. John Peter

Reflection : JOAN CHITTISTER

The call to a Christianity that is profoundly prophetic presupposes of course a long, long journey up a mountain to find God. It certainly implies a deep personal spiritual life. But the call to Christianity also means that we cannot have a real Christian life and expect to stay on the top of our antiseptic little mountains.

12th Friday

Readings : Hosea 14:2-10 Mk. 12:28-34

Intentions : Community at Marist Novitiate, Tudella

For peace in the world

Anniversary : 1808 – Br. Francois was born in Maisonttes, France

Reflection : JOAN CHITTISTER

Once upon a time, a Sufi stopped by a flooding riverbed to rest. The rising waters licked the low-hanging branches of trees that lined the creek. And there, on one of them, a scorpion struggled to avoid the rising stream. Aware that the scorpion would drown soon if not brought to dry land, the Sufi stretched along the branch and reached out his hand time after time to touch the stranded scorpion that stung him over and over again. But still the scorpion kept its grip on the branch. “Sufi,” said a passerby, “Don't you realize that if you touch that scorpion it will sting you?” And the Sufi replied as he reached out for the scorpion one more time, “Ah, so it is, my friend. But just because it is the scorpion's nature to sting does not mean that I should abandon my nature to save.”

13th Saturday : St. Euphrasia, Virgin

Readings : Hosea 5:15-6:6 Lk. 18: 9-14
Intentions : Marist Community at Peshawar
For inner freedom

Reflection : JOAN CHITTISTER

A Lenten journey that has led us to question how we practice the spiritual life, what we think holiness is all about, what we believe we are required to be is now asking us who we are really becoming as we go. It is the hardest question of them all because it requires that we face ourselves and our expectations of others as well as the standards by which we judge both ourselves and them.

14th Sunday : 4th Sunday of Lent
Office : Proper of Lent & Psalter Week 4
Readings : Joshua 5:9-12 2 Cor. 5:17-21 Lk. 15: 1-3, 11-32
Intentions : Marist community at Magamanuthu
That we become aware of our strengths and weaknesses

Reflection : JOAN CHITTISTER

From one perspective, the gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Lent (story of the prodigal son) is not really about three separate people at all -- a parent, one dissolute child and one faithful one. Clear as these figures may be, they are at the same time more caricature than character, more types than persons. Who has really met any of them in toto -- the parent who is always loving, the child who is always worthy, the son or daughter who is always wanton? No, the gospel of the Fourth Sunday of Lent is not about three discrete individuals -- one profane, one righteous, one dauntlessly loving -- as much as it is, surely, about the tug of each of these archetypes in the center of ourselves. It is a blueprint that leaves us asking ourselves which one of them we ourselves are really most like and which one of them is strongest in us right now.

15th Monday : 4th Week of Lent
Office : Proper of Lent & Psalter Week 4
Readings : Is. 65:17-21 Jn. 4:43-54
Intentions : Marist community at Our Lady's Hermitage
For a discerning attitude
Anniversaries : 1997 – First vows of Br. Paul Bhatti
That we be willing to accept responsibilities

Reflection : JOAN CHITTISTER

Down deep we know that we are a spiritual jumble of all three breeds -- the loving parent, the spiritually sophomoric adolescent, the demanding critic. We know that every day there is a choice to be made among them. The real temptation, in fact, is to assume that we are only one or the other of these inclinations, as if whatever we do once defines us forever. But that's far too simplistic an answer for something so complex as life. The fact is that it is our daily, momentary, continual choice among them that, in the end, will determine the very nature of our souls.

16th Tuesday
Readings : Ezk. 47: 1-9, 12 John 5: 1-3, 5-16
Intentions : Community at Maris Stella College
That we put our talents at the service of others

Reflection : JOAN CHITTISTER

In the parable of the prodigal son, we are each the child who is squandering the treasure called life. We are each the child who is judging those who do not do life as we do. We are each called to be the one who forgives the stumbling self and celebrates the efforts of the other. We have no proof that the erring child reformed and stayed home. We only know that this child tried to begin again and that the trying itself was enough for the loving parent. We have no surety that the perfect child ever escaped the imperfection of jealous perfection. We have no proof that the parent was not stung time and again by both of them. We only know that the parent understood the struggles -- and forgave them

17th Wednesday : St. Patrick, Bishop, Apostle of Ireland
Readings : Is. 49: 8-15 Jn. 5:17-30
Intentions : Marist Community at Sargodha
That we strive daily in our journey towards holiness
Anniversary : 1984 – Br. Charles Raphael, 8th SG died in Belgium

Reflection : JOAN CHITTISTER

We have no assurance in which way lies salvation but we do know, the parable of the prodigal son says, that it is not the results that count. It is the becoming, the parable teaches us, that really matters to a loving God whose nature is to save us from the stings in all our souls as we become and become and become.

18th Thursday : St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
Readings : Ex. 32:17-14 Jn. 5: 31-47

Intentions : Marist community at P. Udayapatti
Brothers involved in formation

Reflection :

Lent speaks first with the prophet Joel's words that remind us to return "with our whole heart" to the Lord, to "rend our hearts and not our garments." Our Lord reminds us that when we fast or give alms or pray, only God should see. The penance to which we are called, not only during Lent but throughout our entire lives, is a conversion of heart, a complete transformation of ourselves. Lent is a call to weep for what we could have been and are not, the grace to grieve for what we should have done and did not, the opportunity to change what we ought to change but have not.

19th Friday : Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary

Office : Proper of the feast

Readings : (Feast) 2 Samuel 7:4-5,12-14 Rom. 4:13, 16-18,22 Mt. 1:6,18-21,24

Intentions : Marist community at Marcellin Nivasa

Birthdays : Br. Joseph Fonseka

Reflection :

Lent can also be a time to focus beyond ourselves. It can be a time of renewal that is offered us to hear the cry of the poor and grow in solidarity with them. Ultimately, this is spiritual renewal as well and helps us grow closer to our Lord who tells us that if we wish to love him, we must express that love as love for the least of our brothers and sisters.

20th Saturday : St. Cuthbert, Bishop, Confessor

Readings : Jer. 11:18-20 Jn. 7:40-52

Intentions : Marist community at Haldanduwana

Reflection :

How can I make this Lent a time to hear the cry of the poor? It all starts with desire and a few choices. If we recognize a desire to be more attentive to the poor and to grow in affection for and solidarity with them, then it is likely that this is a grace we have received. Many things may have happened to open us to this grace, but it is important to name it and welcome it. Perhaps God has been offering us this grace for some time and preparing us to receive it this Lent. If we don't feel this desire, we can ask for it. We can ask our Lord to help us grow in a desire to hear better the cry of those most in need.

21st Sunday : 5th Sunday of Lent

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Office : Proper of Lent & Psalter Week 1

Readings : Is. 43:16-21 Phil. 3:8-14 Jn. 8:1-11

Intentions : Marist community at Boy's Town

Reflection :

Who are the poor? Who are most in need? Who are most pushed to the margins of neglect and powerlessness? It doesn't take a great social analysis to come up with some immediate answers in my own world and in the global situation today. Listening to the news - locally, nationally, globally - is a beginning. Who appears to be suffering? Who seems to be tremendously burdened? Not all the poor are in the news, but a sensitive scan of the news is a place to start.

22nd Monday : 5th Week of Lent

Office : Proper of Lent & Psalter Week 1

Readings : Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17,19-30,33-62 Jn. 8: 12-20

Intentions : Marist community at Kalpitiya

That we choose life always

Reflection :

We tend to not think of the poor very much because to do so can render us sad or feeling "unable to help." But, if we use a time like Lent to try to reflect upon the situation of the poor near us and around the world, then the poor will help us come to know God's special love for them. In this reflection we will discover God's love for us because we will experience a solidarity with the poor. We can become aware of how narrow our concerns are or how self-centered we have become. Reflection upon the situation of the poor will draw us closer to them, helping us understand the mystery of radical dependence on God. Ultimately, our closeness with the poor during Lent will make us more "Christ-like" for he is the one who became completely one with us.

23rd Tuesday : St. Turibius of Mongrovejo, Bishop

Readings : Numbers 21:4-9 Jn. 8:21-30

Intentions : Marist community at Chilaw
Rainbow Project in India
Birthdays : Br. Kamran Younas

Reflection :

If we spend Lent reflecting upon the situation of the poor, we will begin to pray differently. We will see not only see their radical dependence upon God but we will find ourselves turning to God on their behalf, before we ask anything of God for ourselves. This kind of prayer purifies our prayer. It helps us pray with a renewed spirit. It frees us from so many of the demands we can place on God, especially for things like comfort or success or just getting things my way.

24th Wednesday : St. Catherine of Sweden, Virgin
Readings : Daniel 3:14-20, 24-25,28 Jn. 8:31-42
Intentions : Our Brothers at MAPAC

Reflection :

With the poor as our prayer companions, we can surrender more easily and ask God for what really matters - first on their behalf and then for ourselves. Our prayer for ourselves will more freely become a prayer that we might be transformed to be better servants for others, especially conscious of those on the margins of Society. It will ultimately lead us to ask the Lord to help us make our lifestyle more simple. It can lead us to ask to be freed from our dependence upon so many of the benefits of the unjust social structures of our world. Finally, it might lead me to ask for the courage to act against those unjust social structures, even to dismantle them.

25th Thursday : Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord
Office : Proper of the feast
Readings : (Feast) Is. 7:10-14 Hebrews 10:4-10 Lk. 1: 26-38
Intentions : That we submit ourselves to the will of God unconditionally
Br. Provincial and province leadership team
Anniversary : 2000 – First vows of Br. Chinthana

Reflection : Constitutions

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. As woman and mother, she 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. In the glory of the risen Christ, she becomes, in a special way, the mother of all those consecrated to God. As men dedicated to her, we offer heart-felt thanks to her for the grace of our vocation, confident that her intercession will help us to persevere faithfully. (18)

26th Friday

Readings : Jer. 20:10-13 Jn. 10: 31-42
Intentions : Community at Holy Cross College, Kalutara
Staff and students of Marist schools in Sri Lanka
Birthdays : Br. Sandalal Alwis

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Sean Sammon

We face a two-fold challenge today when it comes to any discussion about mission and apostolic activity. The first is to *avoid self-deception*. When confronted with the need to make decisions about our apostolic involvements, you and I need to be sure that it is God's work that we are about and not our own. During any process of discernment, for example, we may experience nostalgia, fear, or be concerned about offending one group or other. While these elements can be understandably a part of the process, they must never be the criteria used for apostolic decision-making.

27th Saturday : St. John of Egypt, Hermit
Readings : Ezekiel 37:21-28 Jn. 11:45-57
Intentions : Marist community at Nugegoda
Students and staff of Marist Schools in India

Anniversary : 1822 – Fr. Champagnat admitted to the novitiate eight postulants recruited by former brothers of the Christian Schools. One of the postulants became Br. Jean Baptist who wrote the first life of the Founder.

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Sean Sammon

The second challenge that faces us today in the areas of mission and apostolic life is to *read the signs of our times*. We need to be fearless in carrying out this task and that means not only studying and analyzing these signs but also taking necessary action in light of our findings.

28th Sunday : Passion (Palm) Sunday
Office : Proper of Palm Sunday & Psalter Week 2
Readings : Is. 50:4-7 Phil. 2:6-11 LK. 22:14-23:56

Intentions : Marist community at Trichy

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Sean Sammon

As Marcellin's brothers and Marist lay partners we are called to make Jesus known and loved among poor children and young people. Faced with the world of France after the Revolution of 1789, Marcellin was quickly aware of a need for new ideas and fresh apostolic approaches. Like many founders before him he responded creatively using the means available to him. The Church at large has so often taken the same approach to its missionary role.

29th Monday : Monday of the Holy Week

Office : Proper of Holy Week & Psalter Week 2

Readings : Is. 42:1-7 Jn. 12:1-11

Intentions : Community at Marist Novitiate

Anniversary : 1825 – The first Marist Brother to die in the Congregation, Br. Jean Pierre, died at Boulieu, France

Reflection :

The mystery of Christ's Passion is alive for us today because each of us has our own suffering to go through. Some of us may be in a time of intense suffering. Others may be relatively content at present. But none of us are without a level of suffering at any time. It is the nature of life, in differing degrees at different times. And it is the price of joy. A good way to prepare for Holy Week, then, is to get more truthfully in touch with our own suffering, past or present. What causes (or has caused) us pain – loss, loneliness, failure, disappointment, betrayal?

30th Tuesday : Tuesday of the Holy Week

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

Intentions : Marist community at Peshawar

Anniversary/Birthday : Birthday of Br. Malangmei Thaigamlung

1817 – Fr. Champagnat decided that his Congregation was to be placed under the protection of Mary and that its members would be called Little Brothers of Mary.

Reflection :

These experiences are all part of human existence and we see each of them reflected intensely in the Passion and Death of Jesus. He went through them all. That is what 'passion' literally means. A passing through. The loss of his freedom and place in society. The loneliness of all those tortured and unjustly condemned. The disappointment of his hopes and the bitter gall of his betrayal or abandonment by his closest friends. Passion is something intense, all absorbing while it lasts, yet temporary. It is also mysteriously necessary because it changes us as we go through it.

31st Wednesday : Wednesday of the Holy Week

Readings : Is. 50:4-9 Mt. 26: 14-25

Intentions : Marist community at Mangamanuthu

Reflection :

We should try to understand what the Passion of Jesus means by asking ourselves as honestly as we can what we are really going through at this moment. If we are really in touch with our own passion it will transform passion into compassion. As it did for Jesus on the greatest possible scale. We too will eventually become compassionate if we refuse to run away or deny what we must pass through. Then suffering cannot isolate us but becomes a bridge connecting us with the suffering of others. The mystery is that joy arises through the power of compassion in even the worst of situations. We can feel this bridge forming in us through the power of Christ's compassion and connecting us with the suffering of people displaced by conflicts in their countries, children maimed and families shattered as well as those we live and work with each day.