

October

Intentions of the Holy Father

Catholic Universities

General: That Catholic Universities may more and more be places where, in the light of the Gospel, it is possible to experience the harmonious unity existing between faith and reason.

World Mission Day

Missionary: That the World Mission Day may afford an occasion for understanding that the task of proclaiming Christ is an absolutely necessary service to which the Church is called for the benefit of humanity.

1st Friday : St. Theresa of Child Jesus

International Day of Older Persons

Readings : Job. 38:1, 12-21, 40:3-5 Lk. 10: 13-16

Intentions : Community at Sargodha

Rainbow Project in India

Birthdays : Br. Chinnappan

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

Regardless of how you or I might decide to define poverty, or the face in our local situation, when the founder spoke about the poor, he clearly had in mind children and young people who were economically deprived. We need to keep this point in mind because there are more than a few forms of poverty in our world today and at least as many definitions. But as Marcellin's brothers we are not called to respond to every one of them.

2nd Saturday : Guardian Angels

International Day of Non-Violence (Birthday of M. Gandhi)

Readings : Job 42: 1-3, 5-6, 12-17 LK. 10: 17-24

Intentions : Community at P. Udayapatti

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

Some social scientists employ quantitative indicators to determine who is poor. Using this system, a person's income as well as the degree of his or her access to potable water, nourishing food, adequate housing, health care, educational opportunities, efficient and non-corrupt government services, and a host of other items are used to identify those who are marginalized and those who are not.

3rd Sunday : 27th Sunday in the Ordinary Time

Office : Week 3

Readings : Habakkuk 1: 2-3, 2: 2-4 2 Timothy 1: 6-8, 13-14 Lk. 17:5-10

Intentions : Community at Marcellin Nivasa

Anniversary : 2001 – Election of Br. Sean Sammon as 12th Superior General

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

Others stress qualitative factors when measuring poverty. For example, many people who are poor suffer from low self-esteem. This type of self-doubt is both an outcome of and a contributing factor to their poverty. When people lack self-respect, it is not uncommon for others to look down on them. Such a situation can be particularly painful for poor children and young people.

4th Monday : St. Francis of Assisi (27th Week in Ordinary Time)

World Habitat Day

Office : Week 3

Readings : Gal. 1:6-12 LK. 10: 25-37

Intentions : Community at Haldanduwana

For our diseased Brothers, Parents, relations and friends

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

Brother Benito, in his circular, *On the Use of Material Goods*, pointed out just how much the social milieu in which we find ourselves can influence our understanding about what poverty means. He invited us, for example, to judge the actual necessity of many of the expenditures made to create what we might describe as a Marist school of some excellence.

5th Tuesday

World Teachers Day

Readings : Gal. 1:13-24 Lk. 10:38-42

Intentions : For all teachers

Community at Boy's Town, Rawalpindi

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

There is little reason, at times, to wonder why brothers who live and work daily among people who are materially poor have become skeptical and consider all our talk about those who are poor and the vow of poverty as little more than empty rhetoric.

6th Wednesday : St. Bruno

Readings : Gal. 2:1-2, 7-14 Lk. 11:1-4

Intentions : Community at Kalpitiya

Anniversary : 1934 – Br. Bernardo was martyred in Barruelo, Spain

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

Consecrated life did not come into existence solely to eradicate poverty. If that were the only rationale for this way of living the gospel, then it would pass into history whenever the plight of persons who are poor was alleviated. Clearly, institutes like our own came into existence and continue to flourish for reasons in addition to the service their members may render to persons who are poor.

7th Thursday : Our Lady of the Rosary

Readings : Gal. 3:1-5 Lk. 11: 5-13

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

Anniversary : 1986 – Approval of the post Vatican II Constitutions

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

Work with persons who are poor is also part of the spirit of the founding charism of our Institute, and an extraordinary number of General and Province Chapters have taken decisions that will orient us more fully towards work with children and young people in situations of impoverishment and marginalization. So, as if the founder's vision were not enough to convince us about where the focus of our efforts should be today, we also have the Church and many other factors moving us in this direction.

8th Friday

Readings : Gal 3:7-14 Lk. 11:15-26

Intentions : Our Brothers in MAPAC

Anniversary : 1936 – Br. Laurentiono, Provincial & 44 Brothers were martyred in Barcelona, Spain

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

If suddenly we were to define our schools as private academies set up to increase the probability of university admission, we would lose another essential aspect of our identity. For our schools per se are not what is important, but rather the fact that they are meant to be places where young people come to love the Lord more fully.

9th Saturday : St. Denis (Bishop) and his companions, Martyrs & St. John Leonardi

Readings : Gal 3: 22-29 Lk. 11: 27-28

Intentions : Marist Schools in Sri Lanka

Birthdays : Br. Noel Fonseka

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

The notion of an option for the poor has at its heart this biblical understanding: those living on the margins are the privileged instruments of God's providence. Time and again God has chosen the weak to stun the strong, the foolish to confound the wise.

10th Sunday : 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

World Mental Health Day

(St. Francis Borgia)

Office : Week 4

Readings : 2 Kings 5: 14-17 2 Timothy 2:8-13 Lk. 17: 11-19

Intentions : Marist Schools in India

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

Both the Old and New Testaments contain many examples of the unlikely and excluded playing a vital role in human salvation. Moses, for example, protested that he was slow and hesitant of speech. Despite that fact, he was chosen to lead God's people. Jesse's youngest son David, left out in the cold tending the sheep when Samuel came looking for a successor to Saul, turned out to be Israel's greatest king.

11th Monday : 28th Week in Ordinary Time – Bl. John XXIII, Pope

Office : Week 4

Readings : Gal 4: 22-24, 26-27, 31-5:1 Lk. 11: 29-32

Intentions : Marist Schools in Pakistan

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

Solidarity : For our purposes and in light of our charism, the word solidarity is used here to describe a deliberate choice on your part or mine to enter into the world of children and young people living on the margins of society. By so doing, we come to share their struggles and disappointments as well as their joys and hopes.

12th Tuesday

Readings : Gal. 5:1-6 Lk. 11:37-41

Intentions : Students and staff of Electro

Anniversary : 1839 – Br. Francois was elected as the 1st Superior General at the age of 31.

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

Solidarity with poor children and young people can lead to a transformation of the heart, forcing you and me to re-examine a number of our assumptions about the use of material goods, what is entailed in simplicity of life, and our obligation to speak out about any injustice we encounter.

13th Wednesday

Readings : Gal. 5:18-25 Lk. 11:42-46

Intentions : Staff and students of Boys Town, Rawalpindi

Birthdays : Br. Baskar

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

Solidarity, however, is not a right that we can insist on or take for granted. Rather, it is a gift offered by persons who are poor and living on the margins of the societies in which they find themselves. And they give it in their own good time and way, and only to those who come among them free of attitudes like paternalism or superiority. If it were wrapped up in a package, the card sent with the gift of solidarity would carry this message: *despite evident differences in background, color of skin, or language, you are seen as being one in mind and heart with those of us who are poor.*

14th Thursday : St. Callistus I, Pope & Martyr

Readings : Eph. 1:1, 3-10 Lk 11: 47-54

Intentions : Students of St. John's Hostel, Peshawar

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

In the mind of Old Testament authors, then, the word "poor" was not confined to those who have little or no money. It included groups who were economically deprived but also those who lacked social status and/or were treated unjustly by foreign rulers or the authorities in their own land. These people were oppressed because they were poor and were therefore at the mercy of the unscrupulous. They were also poor because they had been cheated and deprived of their rights. Furthermore, their status as widows, orphans, refugees, etc. made them susceptible to exploitation.

15th Friday : St. Theresa of Avila, Virgin & Doctor of the Church

Readings : Eph. 1:11-14 Lk. 12: 1-7

Intentions : Marist mission in Kalpitiya

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

The men and women who made up the *anawim*, *the poor of Yahweh* found their security and worth, not in the trappings of the material world, but in God. Jesus was referring to them in his Sermon on the Mount: "Happy are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven; happy are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth".

16th Saturday : St. Hedwig, Religious & St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

World Food Day

Readings : Eph. 1:15-23 Lk. 12:8-12

Intentions : Community at Holy Cross College, Kalutara

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

Jesus, too, emptied himself and became poor, so that we might become rich. In his own day and age he did not have to pretend to be in solidarity with those who were marginalized, for he was one of their number. He ministered to the sinner, the sick, the outcasts of society.

17th Sunday : 29th Sunday in the Ordinary Time

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

(St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr)

Office : Week 1

Readings : Exodus 17: 8-13 2 Timothy 3: 14-4:2 Lk. 18:1-8

Intentions : Community at Nugegoda

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

Jesus challenges us to strive continually in our day-to-day circumstances to redress the grievances of those who are abandoned, alone, alienated; to protect the dignity of the poor and stand with the oppressed as they struggle to achieve their freedom.

18th Monday : 29th Week in Ordinary Time – St. Luke, Evangelist

Office : Week 1

Readings : Eph. 2: 1-10 LK. 12:13-21 [Feast 2 Tim. 4:10-17 Lk. 10:1-9]

Intentions : Marist Community at Trichy

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

When we embrace an option for the poor you and I begin to resemble those who waited expectantly for the coming of the Lord. In so doing we take our place among the members of a modern day *anawim*, a group of the faithful who proclaim God's Kingdom and its imminence and pledge to live his *Good News* radically. The challenge presented to us today by the Church and the documents of our Institute is not just a call to work with those who are poor; rather, it is an invitation to join their ranks through simplicity of life, a prophetic witness, ultimately, a revolution of the heart.

19th Tuesday : Sts. John de Brebeuf and Isaac Jogues and Companions, Martyrs, & St. Paul of the Cross

Readings : Eph. 2:12-22 Lk. 12: 35-38

Intentions : Community at Marist Novitiate, Tudella

Birthdays : Br. Nilupul

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

Concern for the poor impels us to search out the root causes of their wretchedness, and to free ourselves from prejudice or indifference towards them. It makes us become more responsible in the use of our resources, which we must share with those among them who are most destitute. We avoid giving them the scandal of living in a way that is too comfortable.

20th Wednesday

Readings : Eph. 3:2-12 LK. 12:39-48

Intentions : Community at Peshawar

Birthdays : Br. Sales

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

Some of us might equate the practice of our vow of poverty with a full understanding of the plight of those who are poor and marginalized. We need to exercise caution here. Without doubt, our vow challenges us to

live simply and to work for the common good. The vow also teaches us the importance of relying on God⁶⁸. Throughout his life, the founder never ceased to instill that lesson in our early brothers. "Place your confidence in God," he counseled them. "Believe that Providence will bless and support you and see to your needs."

21st Thursday

Readings : Eph. 3:14-21 Lk. 12:49-53

Intentions : Community at Mangamanuthu

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

Marcellin, of course, had unlimited confidence in God. How else could he manage to remain peaceful in the face of debt and all sorts of other difficulties? As if God were rewarding that trust, at his death the founder was able to leave our early brothers more than 200,000 francs worth of real estate, free of debt except for a few thousand francs still owed for one property purchased the year before he died. And, as if God was determined to reward Marcellin's confidence to the very end, a generous benefactor discharged that debt a short time later.

22nd Friday

Readings : Eph. 4:1-6 LK 12: 54-59

Intentions : Community at Our Lady's Hermitage

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

Simplicity is another important element that is found in the vow of poverty. And here again, the founder serves as an example. He contented himself with the lot of others, did not put on airs, and was uncomfortable when others singled him out. His life serves as a good example for our own.

23rd Saturday : St. John of Capistrano

Readings : Eph 4: 7-16 Lk. 13:1-9

Intentions : Community at Maris Stella College

Anniversary : 1991 – Death of Br. Clement

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

The vow of poverty trains our eyes on the common good rather than individualism. It reminds us that the only currency that we have in life is time, and challenges us to use it well. How do we spend ours? Serving young people, or ourselves? Lived well, this vow opens our hearts and minds to the gift of solidarity.

24th : Sunday : 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

(*St. Anthony Mary Claret*)

United Nations Day

Office : Week 2

Readings : Sirach 35: 12-14, 16-18 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 Lk. 18: 9-14

Intentions : Community at Sargodha

Birthdays : Br. Charles H. Fernando

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

The founder loved persons who were poor. Consequently, he wanted us to serve them first of all. The simple and often times rugged existence of our early brothers kept them close to the reality of the lives of their students and their families. In the Institute today, however, the situation is vastly different. We must be careful not assume that our vow of poverty gives us both an understanding and an experience of the plight of persons who are materially poor and marginalized.

25th Monday : 30th Week in Ordinary Time

Readings : Eph. 4: 32-5:8 LK. 13:10-17

Intentions : Community at P. Udayapatti

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

There is an enormous difference between making a decision, for one reason or another, not to eat today and actually having nothing to eat. In light of my vow of poverty and out of a desire to be in solidarity with persons who are poor, you or I might choose to eat but one meal each day for an extended period of time. In so doing, however, we must never forget this important fact: tomorrow there will be a meal for me and for

you — even though but one. Can every poor person say the same thing with any assurance? Probably not. The most any one of them might say is, “I wish I could have eaten something today, and only God knows whether I will get anything to eat tomorrow.”

26th Tuesday

Readings : Eph. 5:21-33 Lk. 13: 18-21

Intentions : Community at Marcellin Nivasa

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

These are two radically different experiences. We patronize persons who are poor when we persuade ourselves that, because of our vow of poverty, we share their plight. We have a freedom that poor women, men, and children do not. Consequently, receiving the gift of solidarity should humble us rather than make us proud.

27th Wednesday

Readings : Eph. 6:1-9 Lk. 13: 20-30

Intentions : Community at Haldanduwana

Birthdays : Br. Florentius Peiris

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

Not everyone within the Church or our Institute today is fully convinced that an option for the poor and its broad implementation is such a necessary element in the process of renewal. How can we best explain this phenomenon, and how can we help all involved to better understand the meaning and place that such an option has in the life of each of us, our Institute, and the Church?

28th Thursday : Sts. Simon & Jude, Apostles

Readings : Eph 6:10-20 Lk 13:31-35 [Feast Lk.6:12-16]

Intentions : Community at Boys Town, Rawalpindi

Birthdays : Br. Sunanda Alwis

Anniversary : 1816 – Marcellin ministered the sacrament of the anointing of the sick to the dying teenager Jan-Baptiste Montagne

2007 – Beautification of 47 Brothers martyred in Spain

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

Those who are excluded, the seemingly inconsequential people of the societies in which we live, do play a vital role in the history of human salvation. The distinctive feature of a biblically inspired option for the poor is the belief that, despite all appearances to the contrary, those who are at the margins have a special gift to bring to the rest of us. Consequently, we should go out of our way to give time and attention to those children and young people who are not part of the mainstream, and to find a way of drawing them in.

29th Friday

Readings : Phil. 1: 1-11 Lk. 14:1-6

Intentions : Community at Kalpitiya

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

In our day-to-day lives, then, you and I must ask ourselves: Can we make space within ourselves to hear the dissonant voices? Can we find space for those who are seen more often than not as untouchable in the world at large, the global society in which we are more and more involved?

30th Saturday : St. Gerard Majella

Readings : Phil. 1:18-26 Lk. 14:1, 7-11

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

Anniversary : 2003 – Death of Br. Aloysius Philip

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

What is it that causes a number of our brothers and lay colleagues to be reluctant to embrace an option for the poor? Surely not ill will. Rather, more than a few are fearful of the type of radical change they believe would be initiated in our Institute and Church if such an initiative were to be taken up. Hence, they may avoid or evade the subject either by toning it down or misinterpreting its meaning.

31st Sunday : 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Office : Week 3
Readings : Wisdom 11:22 - 12:2 2 Thess. 1:11- 2:2 Lk. 19: 1-10
Intentions : Our Brothers in MAPAC

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon
We have used our schools and institutions and others for which we are responsible to foster gospel values and the principles of our faith among the students entrusted to our care. But as the proprietors of these educational institutions, we have also become, in country after country, part of the established order, gaining the respect of many because of the quality of the schooling we offer. With respect comes privilege, and over time many of us are reluctant to part with the latter. Consequently, we may succumb to the temptation to preserve the main structures of the societies in which we live even when change is warranted.

November

Intentions of the Holy Father

Drug Addicts and Victims of Every Form of Dependence

General: That victims of drugs or of other dependence may, thanks to the support of the Christian community, find in the power of our Saving God strength for a radical life-change.

The Continent-wide Mission in Latin America

Missionary: That the Churches of Latin America may move ahead with the continent-wide mission proposed by their bishops, making it part of the universal missionary task of the People of God.

1st Monday : Solemnity of All Saints (31st Week in Ordinary Time)
Office : Proper of All Saints
Readings : (Feast) Apoc. 7:2-4, 9-14 1 Jn. 3:1-3 Mt. 5:1-12
Intentions : Marist Schools in Sri Lanka

Anniversary : 1805 – Marcellin Champagnat entered the seminary in Verrieres

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon
Facts and figures do not change hearts, experience does. Living and working among poor children and young people, or being part of an effort aimed at working toward this goal, can at its best transform us and cause us to rededicate ourselves to work on behalf of justice. Archbishop Oscar Romero knew the statistics before he had contact with the lives and reality of those who suffered in poverty. However, his heart began to change only when he came into contact with individual men, women, and children whose misery was evident and the cause for it equally so.

2nd Tuesday : All Souls Day
Office : Office for the Dead
Intentions : Our diseased Brothers, parents, relatives and friends
Staff & Students of Electro

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon
Ideally, then, having transformed our hearts, we will develop a heightened compassion for all whose lives we touch. However, living and working among children and young people who are poor is another area of life where self-deception is a danger. If such a commitment leads me to be self-righteous or prescriptive, I would do well to examine my own motives for doing what I am doing. The presence of God is always evident in those whose lives are a living example of the Beatitudes, for truly their hearts have been transformed by those they serve.

3rd Wednesday : St. Martin de Porres, Religious
Office : Week 3
Readings : Phil. 2: 12-18 Lk. 14:25-33
Intentions : Marist Schools in Pakistan

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

If we are looking for a place to put our energies so as to continue the renewal of our apostolic life, we need look no farther than ourselves. I remember well, for example, being asked several years ago to clear out the room of a middle-aged brother who had died suddenly. He was an active man, involved fully in his apostolate, creative and personable with many friends and colleagues. I was stunned when I saw how little he possessed. A few sets of clothes, some books and personal effects. Within an hour everything was packed and labeled. I realized also that he had what he needed to live and work while I had so much more that was unnecessary.

4th Thursday : St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop

Readings : Phil. 3:3-8 Lk. 15:1-10

Intentions : Marist Schools in India

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

First of all, what must you and I do to revitalize our Institute's mission and its works? If making Jesus the center and passion of our lives is the way to accomplish this, what are we doing to ensure that this will take place? Yes, it is the Lord who will ultimately move us to respond generously to urgent human needs in keeping with our founding purpose. We need to be sure that we are not putting obstacles in his way.

5th Friday

Readings : Phil. 3:17-4:1 Lk. 16:1-8

Intentions : Students of St. John's Hostel, Peshawar

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

Second, by our choice of corporate ministries, way of living, and public witness, you and I both need to stand against those values in our cultures and the world at large that undermine our efforts to bring about a radical personal and institutional conversion. Among these values today we see individualism, materialism, consumerism, corruption, and a lack of respect for human life.

6th Saturday

Readings : Phil. 4: 10-19 Lk. 16: 9-15

Intentions : Marist mission in Kalpitiya

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

Make no mistake about it: genuine renewal of consecrated living and of our works will, over time, move us to the margins of society. The will of God, undoubtedly, is what will determine the outcome of our efforts to renew both, but we must also begin to reverse the process underway in so many parts of our world today to assimilate our way of life into popular culture.

7th Sunday : 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Office : Week 4

Readings : Maccabees 7: 1-2, 9-14 2 Thess. 2:16 – 3: 5 Lk. 20:27-38

Intentions : Students and staff of Boy's Town, Rawalpindi

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

At the same time we must strive to be recognized primarily by our obvious joy in serving God, simplicity of life, and visible presence among those most abandoned by society. We can reach this ideal only by avoiding the all too familiar and tragic betrayal of consecrated life that occurs when we give our heart away generously at the time of first profession, and then take it back, bit by bit, with each passing year.

8th Monday : 32nd Week in Ordinary Time

Office : Week 4

Readings : Titus 1: 1-9 Lk. 17:1-6

Intentions : Community at Holy Cross College, Kalutara

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon

This task will be a challenging one. Our public commitment to live the evangelical counsels more intensely is a first step in that direction. By vowing to hold all goods in common, live out our human sexuality in a celibate chaste manner, and allow our Institute and its members considerable claim over our time, talents, and energies, we witness to values that differ from those held by many of our contemporaries.

9th Tuesday : Dedication of St. John Lateran Basilica in Rome

Readings : Titus 2:1-8, 11-14 Lk. 17: 7-10
Intentions : Community at Nugegoda

Anniversary : First vows of Br. Savarimuthu (1991) & Final vows of Br. Paul Bhatti (2002)

Reflection : Making Jesus Known & Loved – Seam Sammon
By ensuring that our educational institutions are schools aimed at forming prophets, graduating young men and women who have taken the gospel to heart, and carrying out our apostolate in a spirit of selfless service, we witness further to counter-cultural values. Would that eventually our institutions were known as places where we took in every child who knocked at our door!

10th Wednesday : St. Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor of the Church
Readings : Titus 3:1-7 Lk. 17:11-19
Intentions : Community at Trichy

Anniversary : 1990 – First vows of Bros Arockiasamy & Sesu

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon
Mission is not merely one of our Church's many activities; it constitutes its very being. Part of our job is to keep that identity "front and center" in the mind of the Church. We do so by recalling for all involved God's saving interventions in the past, the need we all have for a fundamental change of heart today, and the responsibility everyone carries to build up the human community now and in the days ahead, in keeping with what God has promised.

11th Thursday : St. Martin of Tours, Bishop
Readings : Philemon 7-20 Lk. 17: 20-25
Intentions : Community at Marist Novitiate, Tudella

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon
Religious life is meant to run ahead of the Church but to wait, when necessary, for this larger body to catch up. In making our vows, then, we oblige ourselves to bear witness to the mission of Jesus in a way that is revolutionary. In word and by deed, like a well-formed conscience, we are to remind our Church constantly about the nature of its identity. Ideally, we take on responsibility for helping the Church to keep in mind what it can be, what it longs to be, and what it must be.

12th Friday : St. Josaphat, Bishop & Martyr
Readings : 2 Jn. 4-9 Lk. 17: 26-37
Intentions : Community at Peshawar

Birthdays : Br. Saul

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon
Do you and I believe that a revitalization of our way of life is possible? In light of or in spite of the changes of the last 40 years, and the losses that often came with them, do you and I honestly believe that the Little Brothers of Mary have a vital and viable future? What makes our answer to this question so important? The energy we are willing to spend, and the risks you and I are prepared to take during the years just ahead will all be determined, to a large extent, by the answer we give to that question.

13th Saturday : St. Stanislaus Kostka
Readings : 3 Jn. 5-8 Lk. 18:1-8
Intentions : Community at Mangamanuthu

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon
Are you and I committed to the dream and charism of Marcellin Champagnat, and do we plan on channeling a significant portion of our time and energy toward realizing both in a way that is in keeping with contemporary needs? If, either in word or by deed, our answer, and that of a majority of our brothers, is "no," there will be little worry about a future for our Institute. In all probability, it will not last beyond the present generation.

14th Sunday : 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

World Diabetes Day

Office : Week 1

Readings : Malachi 1 – 2a 2 Thess. 3:7-12 Lk. 21: 5-19

Intentions : Community at Our Lady's Hermitage

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon

So, here at the dawn of a new millennium, more than a few of us long for a God who will dwell at the center of our lives. One to whom we can relate easily, and who will provide depth of meaning and an answer to our ultimate concerns. This is the God around whom we long to renew our spirituality and build a life of personal and communal prayer.

15th Monday : 33rd Week in Ordinary Time – St. Albert the Great, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

Office : Week 1

Readings : Apocal. 1: 1-4, 2:1-5 Lk. 18: 35-43

Intentions : Community at Maris Stella College

Anniversary : 1875 – Françoise Perroton, foundress of the Marist Missionary Sisters, left for Oceania
1875 – Fr. Colin died

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon

Writing in language appropriate for his day, Marcellin described the spirituality he recommended for his Little Brothers; it was a mirror of his own. "Practice the presence of God; it is the soul of prayer, meditation, and all the virtues. Let humility and simplicity be the characteristics that distinguish you from others. Have a filial and tender devotion to Mary; make her loved in every place. Love and be faithful to your vocation, and persevere in it courageously."

16th Tuesday : St. Margaret of Scotland & St. Gertrude

International Day of Tolerance

Readings : Apocal. 3:1-6, 14-22 Lk. 19:1-10

Intentions : Community at Sargodha

Anniversary : 1956 – Death of Br. Pascal

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon

Christ was central to the spirituality of the founder. So also was Mary, albeit in a different way. Marcellin had complete trust in her and confidence in her protection, saying often to his brothers, "With Mary, we have everything; without her, we have nothing." The name of Mary was important to our founder. In Marcellin's understanding of our faith, both Jesus and Mary were at the heart of the mystery of the Incarnation. So, we can say that while the founder's spirituality was truly incarnational, it was decidedly Marial, too.

17th Wednesday : Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious

Readings : Apocal. 4:1-11 Lk. 19:11-28

Intentions : Community at P. Udayapatti

Anniversary : 1889 – Fr. Peter Chanel was beautified by Pope Leo XIII

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon

Marcellin's spirituality was also eminently transparent. Simplicity was the quality that characterized the man. The founder was direct, enthusiastic, confident. His humility was also evident: no one would ever describe him as a person of pretense. These are the elements that he advised for his brothers and that so many in our Church today find attractive. Marcellin's spirituality is an expression of a practical Christianity, one capable of transforming the person as well as the world in which he or she lives.

18th Thursday : Dedication of the Churches of St. Peter & Paul

Readings : Apocal. 5:1-10 Lk. 19: 41-44

Intentions : Community at Marcellin Nivasa

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon

And, what will be the price of life and a future for our Institute and its mission today? Nothing short of a revolution! So I invite you to join me in one, a revolution of the heart. I can promise little in return except hard work, a steady diet of self-sacrifice, and the possibility of being part of nothing less than the rebirth of our

Institute. Yes, the possibility of being part of nothing less than the rebirth of this Institute and mission that we love so well.

19th Friday

Readings : Apocal. 10:8-11 Lk. 19: 45-48

Intentions : Community at Haldanduwana

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon

To form an identity, an Institute must, first of all, take an honest look at its available options. As a group, we have been struggling to do just that since Vatican II. In light of our charism, and in response to the calls of the Church and world, changing realities, and new needs, we have asked: Which ways of being in the world will foster a radical dependence on God and further the mission of Jesus?

20th Saturday

Universal Children's Day

Readings : Apocal. 11: 4-12 LK. 20:27-40

Intentions : Community at Boys Town, Rawalpindi

Birthdays : Br. Albert Jayaraj

Anniversary : 1993 - Final vows of Br. Eric Perers & First vows of Br. John Peter & Benedict Wijesooriya

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon

Religious life, on the other hand, which is meant to mirror Christ's own way of life, has, in the Pope's words, responsibility for showing forth the holiness of the People of God. It is meant to proclaim and, in a way, anticipate a future age when the reign of God will be achieved. It is a more complete expression of the Church's purpose: the sanctification of humanity.

21st Sunday : Solemnity of Christ the King

Office : Proper of the Feast

Readings : 2 Samuel 5: 1-3 Col. 1:11-20 Lk. 23: 35-43

Intentions : Community at Kalpitiya

Anniversary : 1998 – Final vows of Br. Arockiasamy

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon

Caught up in the day to day preoccupations that beset any school or other institution, we can grow quite removed from the concerns of the local Church. Over time, we come to discover that the number of channels in place to help us share our experience and insights about ministry decrease steadily.

22nd Monday : St. Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr - 34th Week in Ordinary Time

Office : Week 2

Readings : Apocal. 14:1-5 Lk. 21: 1-4

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

Anniversary : 1997 - Final vows of Br. Alex

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon

In the years following Vatican II, many of us also gave high priority to the challenge of personal growth. In so doing, we became better acquainted with principles of human development and psychology. For most of us, this knowledge was helpful personally and in terms of renewing our programs of initial and ongoing formation. For a few, however, it led to excessive self-preoccupation, and a diminution of the impulse to generosity that has typically marked our way of life.

23rd Tuesday : St. Clement I, Pope & Martyr & St. Columban, Abbot

Readings : Apocal. 14:14-19 Lk. 21: 5-11

Intentions : Our Brothers in MAPAC

Rainbow Project in India

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon

In recent years, a number of us have also come to realize that as we dismantled the “cloister,” competing ideologies—individualism, materialism, consumerism, new understandings about sexuality and relationships, to name but a few—flooded in and did battle with other values that, up until that time, had guided religious life. It was within all these rapidly changing circumstances that we and the members of many other Institutes began the work of adapting our groups to the realities and needs of the Church and world of the latter part of the 20th century.

24th Wednesday : St. Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions, Martyrs
Readings : Apocal. 15:1-4 Lk. 21: 12-19
Intentions : Marist Schools In Pakistan

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon
Champagnat built his spirituality upon this solid base: love of God and of other people. He loved God in His very human nature. Outgoing by temperament, Marcellin also loved people and enjoyed spending time with them. Aware that God chooses to be revealed in the persons and events of life, the founder came to understand that one way to a loving relationship with God was through loving relationships with others.

25th Thursday : St. Catherine of Alexandria
Readings : Apocal. 18: 1-2, 21-23, 19:1-3 Lk. 21: 20-28
Intentions : Marist Schools in India

Anniversary : 2000 – Frist vows of Bros. Baskar, Esu Raj & Santosh

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon
Brothers, call it a practical Christianity, call it what you will, but Marcellin Champagnat came to embody an incarnational spirituality. He knew from experience that an authentic spiritual life has its origin in the place and amid the circumstances in which we find ourselves. As he matured, each person the founder met became for him an image of the risen Savior whom he had come to know and love so well.

26th Friday
Readings : Apocal. 20:1-4, 11-21:2 Lk. 21: 29-33
Intentions : Marist Schools in Sri Lanka

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon
All well and good, you might say, but how do you and I live out the founder’s spirituality today? Here was a man of his times, whose search for God was influenced by the circumstances of his life and the events of his age. Wouldn’t our time in history, as well as the traditions and customs of our countries and cultures, and a host of other elements, also influence our living out of Marcellin’s spirituality?

27th Saturday
Readings : Apocal. 22:1-7 Lk. 21: 34-36
Intentions : Students and staff of Electro

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon
Spirituality has more to do with being grateful for the gift of God’s unconditional love than with any pious practice, and that stands to reason. After, all, gratitude is the root of all virtue; it is the foundation of love and charity. Marcellin understood that fact; he invites us today to do the same.

28th Sunday : 1st Sunday of Advent
Sunday Readings Year A
Office : Proper of Advent & Psalter Week 1
Readings : Jer. 33: 14-16 1 Thess. 3:12 – 4:2 LK. 21: 25-28, 34-36
Intentions : Students and staff of Boys Town, Rawalpindi

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon
One of the gifts of our age, though difficult for many of us to accept, is the growing understanding that spirituality has more to do with the unquenchable fire that burns within us than with climbing any ladder of virtues. Pious practices devoid of passion will not sustain you or me over time.

29th Monday : 1st Week of Advent

International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People
Office : Proper of Advent & Psalter Week 1
Readings : Is. 2:1-5 Mt. 8: 5-11
Intentions : Marist mission in Kalpitiya

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon
Many of us claim to have passion enough for more than one lifetime. We admit, too, that this driving force, lying at the heart of our human experience, fuels the love, creativity, and hope that we bring to life. Yet, we are often reluctant to admit that passion is also an intimate part of our spirituality.

30th Tuesday : St. Andrew, Apostle
Readings : Is. 11:1-10 LK. 10:21-24
Intentions : Marist Community at Kalutara

Anniversary : 1857 – Foundation of the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary (SMSM)

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon
Is our hesitancy due to the fact that passion, having more than one face, frightens us? After all, we do experience it at times, more as restlessness or burning desire that we describe as a hunger. This face of passion leaves us on edge, dissatisfied and frustrated. And in the midst of all this unrest, just what is spirituality? Ultimately, it is what we do with our passion.

December

Intentions of the Holy Father

The Experience of Personal Suffering as a Help to Others who Suffer

General: That our personal experience of suffering may be an occasion for better understanding the situation of unease and pain which is the lot of many people who are alone, sick or aged, and stir us all to give them generous help.

Opening Our Doors to Christ

Missionary: That the peoples of the earth may open their doors to Christ and to His Gospel of peace, brotherhood and justice.

1st Wednesday
World AIDS day (For combating AIDS)
Readings : Is. 25:6-10 Mt. 15:29-37
Intentions : Community at Nugegoda

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon
Our hunger and thirst for Jesus is nothing more than a mirror of his for us. But unlike Teresa and Marcellin, few of us are willing to believe that God loves us in such an unconditional way. Yes, we will say, “God loves us unconditionally,” but the word “but” always seems to follow and fill the place where a punctuation mark called a period belongs. So we must ask ourselves why try to tame God’s love by pretending that something given so freely must be earned? In this life, we alone stand in the way of our accepting God’s unconditional love.

2nd Thursday
International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
Readings : Is. 26:1-6 Mt. 7:21, 24-27
Intentions : Community at Trichy

Anniversary : 2006 – Death of Br. Walter Smith in Faisalabad

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon

To begin with, that we accept the fact that Jesus is the answer to the question that is every human life. Marcellin came, over time, to understand that piece of Good News. My relationship with Jesus rests at the center of my life. Concretely that means putting aside time, as I would for any other important relationship in my life, to nurture this one and allow Jesus to be himself.

3rd Friday : St. Francis Xavier
International Day of Disable persons
Readings : Is 29: 17-24 Kt. 9: 27-31
Intentions : Community at Marist Novitiate, Tudella

Reflections : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon
Our spiritual lives develop in stages, and we must learn to be patient with ourselves. Some spiritual directors, for example, compare the consoling grace found in our relationship with Jesus to water bubbling to the surface of a well, almost to the point of overflowing. Early in that relationship, we are young and strong and can easily by our own power draw water from the well. We have available to us as much of God's consoling grace as we desire. But let's be honest: we are in charge, not Jesus.

4th Saturday : St. John of Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church
Readings : Is. 30:19-21, 23-26 Mt. 9: 35-10:1, 6-8
Intentions : Community at Peshawar

Birthdays : Br. Lal Fonseka

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon
With the passage of time the water level in the well begins to drop. But we still have our strength, and so, with human effort, we continue to lower a bucket into the well and draw forth as much consoling grace as we like. But we remain in control. Jesus continues to be kept at a distance. Eventually, however, that well, once brimming with water, dries up. No longer young and strong, we lack the self-sufficiency of our earlier years. So, we ask ourselves: what can we do now to gain the consoling grace of God? An honest response: nothing, except to sit and wait for the rain.

5th Sunday : 2nd Sunday of Advent
Office : Proper of Advent & Psalter Week 2
Readings : Baruch 5: 1-9 Phil. 1:3-6, 8-11 Lk. 3:1-6
Intentions : Community at Mangamanuthu

Anniversary : 2003 – Final vows of Br. Sandalal Alwis

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon
When you and I arrive at this point in our spiritual life, as Marcellin himself must have, we are better able to allow Jesus to be at least an equal partner in our relationship. We give him the freedom to love us as he sees fit. How do we know that we are moving in this direction? When, like Teresa, we long only for a simple presence before God. Nothing more, and nothing less.

6th Monday : St. Nicolas (2nd Week of Advent)
Office : Proper of Advent & Psalter Week 2
Readings : Is. 35:1-10 Lk. 5:17-26
Intentions : Community at Our Lady's Hermitage

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon
I accept the fact that Jesus loves me in a singular and special way. From the beginning of time, God has reached out to us in relationship, with Jesus the most stunning example of that initiative. Our relationship with Jesus and its pattern of development are unique; they cannot be duplicated.

7th Tuesday : St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
Readings : Is. 40: 1-11 Mt. 18:12-14
Intentions : Community at Maris Stella College

Birthdays : Br. Ephrem Obris

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon

We know, too, that three elements lay at the heart of the spirituality Marcellin passed on to us, in practice and in his Last Testament: confidence in God always being there, devotion to Mary and reliance on her protection, and the presence of the uncomplicated virtues of simplicity and humility. The founder's spirituality was incarnational, Marial, and transparent.

8th Wednesday : Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Bl. Virgin Mary

Office : Proper of the Feast

Readings : (Feast) Gen. 3:9-15 Eph. 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk. 1: 26-38

Intentions : Community at Sargodha

Anniversary : 1999 – Death of Br. Paul Nizier

Final vows of Bros. Peter (1939), Charles, Noel & Ephrem (1973), Br. Mervyn (1984), Chinthana (2007), First vows of Jayaraj (1984),

1942 – Consecration of the Marist Institute to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon

Mary's life was a genuine human journey. To deny that fact and take her out of the ranks of humanity is unfair to her and to all of us. This woman of faith was never, and will never be, divine. To persist today in applying titles to Mary that appear to give her the qualities of God brings confusion rather than clarity.

9th Thursday

Readings : Is. 41:13-20 Mt. 11:11-15

Intentions : Community at P. Udayapatti

Anniversary : 1879 – Death of Br. Louis Marie 2nd Superior General

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon

10th Friday

International Human Rights Day

Readings : Is. 48:17-19 Mt. 11: 16-19

Intentions : Community at Marcellin Nivasa

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon

Passion marked Marcellin Champagnat's relationship with the Lord Jesus. In our own day and age, we long for a similar experience of God, though we understand that it may differ in some ways from the Founder's own. I mentioned earlier that passion is ambitious. While it plays an important role in our spiritual life, passion appears to be at work in other areas of our lives as well. For example, wherever strong emotions such as anger and rage hold sway, passion is close at hand. So, too, in situations of profound sadness and ecstatic joy. Passion also holds a place of prominence in our sexual lives.

11th Saturday : St. Damasus I, Pope

Readings : Eccl. 48: 1-4, 9-11 Mt. 17: 10-13

Intentions : Community at Haldanduwana

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon

Today, however, we realize that sexuality is much broader than genital sexual behavior, and includes also our way of being in the world as a man or woman, and the attitudes and characteristics, culturally defined as masculine or feminine, that we appropriate over time. More importantly, though, sexuality captures our basic human need to reach out, both physically and spiritually, to embrace others. It expresses God's intention that we find in relationship what it means to be human and spiritual. Yes, sexuality is intrinsic to our relationship with other people and God. It has much more to do with self-transcendence than with self-fulfillment.

12th Sunday : 3rd Sunday of Advent

(*Our Lady of Guadalupe & St. Jane Frances de Chantal*)

Office : Proper of Advent & Psalter Week 3

Readings : Zephaniah 3:14-18a Phil. 4: 4 – 7 Lk. 3: 10-18

Intentions : Community at Boy's Town, Rawalpindi

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon

So, we must ask: are means available to help us channel our sexual longing and desire in creative ways that lead us away from self-defeating behavior and toward union with God and others? There are actually several: a sense of discipline, a capacity for honest self-appraisal, an ability to tolerate solitude, and a sense of humor. For any life to be fruitful, all are essential.

13th Monday : 3rd Week of Advent – St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr
Office : Proper of Advent & Psalter Week 3
Readings : Numbers 24: 2-7, 15-17 Mt. 21:23-27
Intentions : Community at Kalpitiya

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon

When it comes to sexuality and spirituality, then, we face this challenge: to become friends with the passion within us and, at the same time, to accept the fact that we are unfinished. While many of our cultures teach us otherwise, we cannot “have it all.” We must, instead, learn to live with tension in both our spiritual and sexual lives. Augustine was right – in this life we cannot answer fully faith’s fundamental question: On whom or on what do we set our hearts? Our hearts remain restless until they rest fully in God.

14th Tuesday : St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church
Readings : Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13 Mt. 21: 28-32
Intentions : Community at St. Mary’s College, Chilaw

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon

After all, to be at home with our choice for celibate chastity we have to face – first and foremost – what it means to be a religious person, our spiritual identity. You and I can learn all there is to know about human sexuality, become quite expert, as a matter of fact, but until we face what it means to be a spiritual person, we will always be uneasy with our celibate chastity.

15th Wednesday
Readings : Is. 45: 6-8, 18, 21-26 Lk. 7: 19-23
Intentions : Our Brothers at MAPAC

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon

Many people in the societies and cultures in which we find ourselves today believe that embracing a life of celibate chastity is both naïve and foolish. And it is! Naïve because the choice defies social convention; foolish because to embrace and live well a life of celibate chastity leads inevitably to a revolution of the heart. What philosopher Bernard Lonergan, SJ, reminds us is akin to “an other worldly falling in love. It is total and permanent self-surrender without conditions, qualifications, reservations”.

16th Thursday
Readings : Is. 54: 1-10 LK.7:24-30
Intentions : Marist Schools In Pakistan

Birthdays : Br. Jesudoss

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon

And who among us wants to undergo such a conversion, to embrace this revolution of the heart? Herein lies the challenge of celibate chastity: in choosing to live out our sexuality in a celibate chaste manner, we commit ourselves to live with passion, to be deeply spiritual and sexual at the same time.

17th Friday
Office : Proper of Advent for 17th December & Psalter Week 3
Readings : Gen. 49:2, 8-10 Mt. 1:1-17
Intentions : Marist Schools in Sri Lanka

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon

Eventually, we come to rediscover the fire—that longing for Jesus – that has always burned brightly within us. In making this rediscovery we grow to be more at home with ourselves and with the Lord, but now on his terms and with infinitely more knowledge about his ways. When do we know that we have come to this point in life? When the phrase that best describes us is this one: “deeply spiritual and profoundly human.” Surely these words would have been apt when applied to Marcellin Champagnat.

18th Saturday

International Migrants Day

Office : 18th December & Psalter Week 3

Readings : Jer. 23:5-8 Mt. 1: 18-24

Intentions : Marist Schools in India

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon

What does the founder's devotion to Mary tell us about his personality? A great deal. Marcellin was a man who, over time, became increasingly more aware of his limitations. He realized that the gifts required for the adventure in which he found himself exceeded his natural capacities. How explain its success? Sincere of conscience, our founder gave credit for all that had been accomplished to Mary, whose help he had always requested and whose inspiration he followed as faithfully as possible.

19th Sunday : 4th Sunday of Advent

Office : Proper of Advent Sundays & Psalter Week 4

Readings : Mich 5: 2-5a Hebr. 10: 5-10 Lk. 1:39-45

Intentions : Students and staff of Electro

Birthdays : Br. Susai Manickam

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon

We must also admit that our understanding and appreciation of this extraordinary woman of faith today is not much different from what was commonly held by 19th century believers. That fact may help explain why devotion to Mary has waned since Vatican II in both our Church and Institute. The mother of Jesus had been frozen in time, trapped in images created by Renaissance artists, placed on a pedestal, and elevated beyond our reach.

20th Monday

Office : Proper of Advent, 20th December & Psalter Week 4

Readings : Is. 7:10-14 LK. 1:26-38

Intentions : Students and staff of Boys Town, Rawalpindi

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon

Here at the dawn of the 21st century, we as an Institute need a new appreciation of Mary: one in keeping with the teachings of the Second Vatican Council, and, at the same time, respectful of the varied and rich traditions that are so evident among us. It goes without saying that this woman of courage and strength who was so important to Marcellin, should have a central place in our spirituality, just as she did in his.

21st Tuesday : St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church

Office : Proper of Advent, December 21st & Week 4

Readings : Song of Songs 2:8-14 Lk. 1: 39-45

Intentions : Students of St. John's Hostel, Peshawar

Birthdays : Br. Francis

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon

Mary also waited expectantly for the coming of the Messiah. And because she always looked at the world through the eyes of faith, she was able, over time, to recognize him in the Suffering Servant who was her son. As an individual, she made difficult choices in life with courage, and grew, in time, to be an elder in the budding community of the Church. So, while we hold fast to Marcellin's image of our Good Mother, today we are ever more aware of the fact that Mary is also our sister in faith, and a prophet among the Communion of Saints.

22nd Wednesday

Office : December 22nd & Week 4

Readings : 1 Samuel 1: 24-28 LK. 1: 46-56

Intentions : Marist Mission in Kalpitiya

Anniversary : 1985 - Final vows of Bros. Sunanda Alwis & Nicholas Fernando

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon

The founder's relationship with children quickly illustrates both qualities. His love of children and young people was expressed in refreshingly straightforward ways. He was considered an excellent catechist, speaking directly to the hearts and concerns of the young. He was concerned about both their education and evangelization, and was often heard to say, "I cannot see a child without wanting to let him know how much Jesus Christ loves him and how much he should, in return, love the divine Savior."

23rd Thursday : St. John of Kanty
Office : December 23rd & Week 4
Readings : Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24 Lk. 1: 57-66
Intentions : Marist Community at Kalutara

Anniversary : 1978 – Final vows of Br. Victor

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon
The episode that came to be known as the Memorare in the Snow is still another example of the virtues of simplicity and humility in the founder's life. This incident also opens an additional window on the structure of his personality and his spirituality. What caused Marcellin to set out on his journey in the first place? Concern for a sick brother. Marcellin's world might have been small when compared to that of many people today, but there was nothing small about his heart. Love always translated into action. A brother was sick; the founder set out to visit him.

24th Friday : Christmas Eve
Readings : 2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-11, 16 Lk.1:67-79
Intentions : Marist Community at Nugegoda

Anniversary : 1938 – Final vows of Late Br. Aloysius
1817 – Br. Lawrence the 3rd Member of the Institute joined the community at La Valla.
Birthdays : Br. Esu Raj

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon
Now, how do we apply what we have been discussing about Marcellin's spirituality to our own lives today? First of all, we pay a price when getting involved with Jesus on his terms. After all, he asks us to imitate him, not admire him, and that means embracing the Paschal Mystery. If we seek transformation, we must first learn to be at home with suffering and death.

25th Saturday : The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Octave of Christmas
Office : Proper of the Day
Readings : (Mid night Mass) Is. 9:2-4, 6-7 Titus 2: 11-14 Lk. 2: 1-14
Intentions : All the Brothers of the Province

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon
How does any relationship with Jesus develop, and what is needed to sustain it? To begin with, throughout the ages, spiritual writers have insisted that times of personal prayer are an essential part of any relationship with the Lord. To deepen the bond that you and I have with the Lord, our times of personal prayer must also grow in a natural way to become regular and prolonged. What does the phrase "regular and prolonged" mean concretely? Ideally, an hour each day. But this goal is something into which we grow, over time, and at God's invitation.

26th Sunday : Feast of Holy Family
(*St. Stephen, The first martyr*)
Office : Proper of the Feast & Psalter Week 1
Readings : Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6, 12-14 Col. 3: 12-21 Lk. 2: 41-52
Intentions : Community at Marist Novitiate, Tudella

Anniversary : 2004 – Remembrance of Tsunami Victims

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon
You and I have the pleasure of Jesus' company twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. If we are serious about our relationship with him, we will want to return the favor by providing Jesus with the pleasure of our company for at least one hour each day. This time-honored practice and integrity in our moral life are two characteristics of people who take their spiritual life seriously.

27th Monday : St. John Apostle & Evangelist
Office : Proper of the Feast & Evening Prayer 27th December (Christmas Octave)
Readings : (Feast) 1 Jn. 1:1-4 Jn. 20: 2-8
Intentions : Community at Peshawar

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon
We may balk at the idea of trying to find an uninterrupted hour for personal prayer in the midst of an already busy day. We can also cite the article in our Marist Constitutions that prescribes 30 minutes of personal prayer a day. But let's be honest: could either of us convince anyone that we have but a half hour a day for what we declare to be the most important relationship in our life?

28th Tuesday : The Holy Innocents
Office : Proper of the Feast & Evening Prayer 28th December (Christmas Octave)
Readings : (Feast) 1 Jn. 1:5-2:2 Mt. 2: 13-18
Intentions : Community at Mangamanuthu

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon
What keeps us from prayer? I believe that, in part, we avoid it because we feel so inadequate when it comes to praying well. If your prayer is anything like mine, often enough it is filled with distractions: concerns about the day, phone calls to be made, work that needs to be done and done quickly. Yes, everything but God seems to intrude on my prayers some days.

29th Wednesday : St. Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr
Office : Proper of December 29th , Christmas Octave
Readings :
Intentions : Community at Our Lady's Hermitage

Birthdays : Br. Suresh

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon
Marcellin Champagnat is a saint, not by his own merit, but rather because he allowed God's grace into his heart, where it took root and flourished. He suggested as much when he wrote in his Spiritual Testament: "There are difficulties in living the life of a good religious, but grace makes all things easy."

30th Thursday
Office : Proper of December 30th , Christmas Octave
Readings : 1 Jn. 2: 12-17 Lk 2: 36-40
Intentions : Community at Maris Stella College

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon
We have seen that Marcellin's relationship with the Lord developed over time. Early in his life he used the discipline of daily schedules and some fixed activities to develop some "habits" of prayer. With the passage of years, however, he grew to the point where his relationship with Jesus was second nature.

31st Friday : St. Sylvester I, Pope
Office : Proper of 31st December, Christmas Octave
Readings : 1 Jn. 2: 18-21 Jn. 1:1-18
Intentions : Thanks giving for the graces received during the year
For all the Marist Communities in the Province

Reflection : A Revolution of the Heart – Sean Sammon
It comes as no surprise that creating justice for the poor ranks high on the list of essential attitudes and actions that foster the spiritual life. For Jesus, there were two basic commandments: love God and love your neighbor. He bluntly tells us in Matthew 25 that we will be judged on how we treat people who are poor. The way in which we treat them will be equated to the way in which we treat God.