

April

Intentions of the Holy Father

Fundamentalism and Extremism

General: That every tendency to fundamentalism and extremism may be countered by constant respect, by tolerance and by dialogue among all believers.

Persecuted Christians

Missionary: That Christians persecuted for the sake of the Gospel may persevere, sustained by the Holy Spirit, in faithfully witnessing to the love of God for the entire human race.

1st Thursday : Holy Thursday

Readings : Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14 1 Cor. 11:23-26 Jn. 13:1-15

Office : Proper of Holy Thursday. Evening prayer is replaced by the Mass of the Lord's Supper

Intentions : Marist community at Our Lady's Hermitage

Anniversary : 1939 – End of the Spanish Civil War, in which 172 Marist Brothers shed their blood.

Reflection :

The focus of today's feast is the Last Supper. John's account, which omits any actual reference to the bread and wine and describes the 'sign' of the washing of the feet. Here he takes us into the meaning of the Eucharist at a level deeper than the sacramental signs. But of course he still needs a sign to do that. The washing of the feet exposes the meaning of the Eucharist and indeed the inner dynamic of the whole of Easter. It is, as John says, firstly a pure expression of love. 'He always loved those who were his own in the world, and now he showed how perfectly he loved them.'

2nd Friday : Good Friday

(St. Francis of Paola, Hermit)

Office : Proper of Good Friday. Evening prayer is replaced by the afternoon Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

Intentions : Community at Maris Stella College

Anniversaries : 2005 – Death of Pope John Paul II

Birthdays : Birthday of Br. Rosario

Reflection :

When we contemplate the Cross we should see not only suffering but also a terrible truth expressed in love. It is the love not the suffering of Christ that redeems us from despair and untruthfulness. It is not punishment for ancestral sin or a payment of a debt to an angry God. It is the revelation of the truth that filled Jesus' life and teaching. Yet we are terrified of this truth of an overwhelming, unconditional love. We feel unworthy of it. We don't trust it. We can't believe it. We fear we will fail to respond to it. So we kill or torture those who bear witness to it as we do the prophets of nonviolence who express it – Ghandi, Martin Luther King, Mandela. The Cross exposes the lie that is behind all violence. Once seen and venerated for what it truly is the Cross ends the cycle of violence. You cannot destroy the truth. The Cross shows that truth like love survives death.

3rd Saturday : Holy Saturday

Office : Proper of Holy Saturday

Intentions : Marist Community at Sargodha

Reflection :

This is his 'descent into hell' that is a favourite theme of eastern church icons. How can we interpret this mythical language today? Perhaps as the all-penetrating influence of the being of Jesus, that comprises his life and death, into the depths of our psyche. Here it meets the violent death wish and our darkest corners of self-hatred. Here his love is ultimately irresistible because it burns away resistance and grants a renewal of our freedom. True freedom is more than the right to choose. It is the power of consent. Here command an invitation and obedient liberty.

Eastertide

4th Sunday : Easter Sunday

(St. Isidor, Bishop & Doctor of the Church)

Office : Proper of Easter Sunday

Readings : (Morning) Acts 10:34a, 37-43 Col. 3:1-4 Jn. 20:1-9

Intentions : Marist Community at P. Udayapatti

Birthdays : Br. Hahayath & Br. Adnan Asif
Anniversary : 1947 – Death of Br. Marie Anthelem
1922 – Pope Pius XI approved the Constitution of the Marist Brothers
1968 – Martin Luther King was assassinated

Reflection :

Awakening is coming to full consciousness. Coming from death is leaving the past and its powers of denial and rejection and coming into the present. The invitation to go with Jesus speaks to the deepest part of the soul, on the other side of self-consciousness. Then the secret is whispered which explains the meaning of Easter and the Christian life that flows from the experience of resurrection: For you in me and I in you, together we are one undivided person.

5th Monday : Easter Octave
(St. Vincent Ferrer, Priest)
Office : Proper Easter Octave, Psalms/Antiphons from Easter Sunday
Readings : Acts 2:14, 22-32 Mt. 28:8-15
Intentions : Community at Marcellin Nivasa
Our diseased Brothers, parents, relations and benefactors

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(103) Marist spirituality inspires our understanding of how we are to live what Jesus commands us and what Champagnat dreams for us. At the same time it grows and develops as we love one another, honestly and simply, in our families and communities.

6th Tuesday : Easter Octave (St. Celestine I, Pope)
Readings : Acts 2:36-41 Jn. 20:11-18
Intentions : Marist community at Haldanduwana
That we live out the Eucharist in our everyday lives

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(104) Living the Eucharist is at the heart of our community life and our way of relating. In many different places and with many different people we find ourselves, throughout our days *gathered, blessed, broken and shared*.

7th Wednesday : Easter Octave (St. John Baptist De La Salle)
World Health Day
Readings : Acts 3:1-10 Lk 24: 13-35
Intentions : Marist community at Boys Town, Pindi
For the De La Salle Brothers Congregation

Reflection : Water from the Rock

Our spirituality is communal, best expressed and lived when we are gathered as family and community. We develop meaningful relationships and assure our consistent presence within our communities and families. Thus the experience of loving and being loved become part of our life in the ordinary moments of our day. Whatever the members of a community do – working, struggling for justice, serving society, praying or sharing meals and relaxation together – we recognise the blessings of God. We are blessed with the gift of life and with companions for our mission and our life's journey. We proclaim, not just what God has done for each one of us, but what God is doing for us together, as family and community. (105,106)

8th Thursday : Easter Octave
Readings : Acts 3:11-26 Lk. 24:35-48
Intentions : Marist community at Kalpitiya
Students and staff at Electro

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(107) Life together supports and challenges us to be a community of mission. We listen to the invitations of God that flow through our shared life and discern our shared response. Based on a common trust in God, we offer our lives in service. In ministry we find ourselves, like Jesus, broken open for our brothers and sisters. Truly, we are bread of life for others as Jesus has been for us.

9th Friday : Easter Octave
Readings : Acts 4:1-12 Jn 21:1-14

Intentions : Marist community at Chilaw

That we not fall into the temptation of individualism

Anniversary : 1883 – Br. Nestor, 3rd SG of the Institute, dies in Ssint-Genis-Laval, France

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(108) By giving and receiving love, we are challenged to fight our tendency to individualism, self-preoccupation and diminishing generosity. The building up of family spirit is demanding. We need to be present to others: attentive to them, able to listen, and give of our time. In this area, young and old are equal since, in the gift of self, one does not age.

10th Saturday : Easter Octave

Readings : Acts 4: 13-21 Mk. 16: 9-15

Intentions : Our brothers at MAPAC

That we relate to others in a gentle and loving way

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(109) God created us as sexual persons so that we would find in relationships with others our true human and spiritual nature.⁸⁰ Our sexual desires are an expression of the deepest human longing for union, with others, and ultimately with God. The relationship of Jesus with his disciples and friends shows us the Christian way to meaningful and mature intimacy and friendship. With God's grace we engage in the challenging journey of growing into that inner harmony that attracted people to Jesus - humble and gentle of heart. We cannot grow towards our potential as human beings without being involved with others, and responding to the support and challenges posed by those who share our journey most intimately.

11th Sunday : 2nd Sunday of Easter

(St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr)

Office : Proper of Easter Octave & Antiphons/psalms from Easter Sunday

Readings : Acts 5:12-16 Apoc. 1:9-13, 17-19 Jn. 20:19-31

Intentions : Students & Staff of Marist Schools in Pakistan

That our communities become places of love and care

Anniversaries : 1993 – First vows of Bros. Hadayath & Roshan

1999 – Final vows of Br. Hadayath M. Deen

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(110) As Brothers and Lay Marists, we try to develop a quality of communion that allows families, religious communities and other forms of community living to become homes *where the young are helped to mature, where we take care of those aging, and are especially kind to the weak; places where we forgive one another and heal wounds, where we joyfully celebrate the life we share together.*⁸²

End of Easter Octave

12th Monday : 2nd Week of Easter

Office : Proper of Eastertide & Psalter Week 2

Readings : Acts 4:23-31 Jn 3:1-8

Intentions : Students & Staff of Marist Schools in India

That our communities radiate joy

Anniversary : 1961 - Final vows of Bros. Gregory Appuhamy & Linus Fernando

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(112) A sense of humour is a wonderful gift. It helps us to bear with ourselves and companions lightly and to face the ups and downs of life together with a joyful spirit. *Our way of life is meant to make people happy. Not in the sense of hilarity, but in that deep feeling of contentment experienced by people who have meaning and purpose in their life and marvellous companions with whom to share that life.*

13th Tuesday : St. Martin I, Pope & Martyr

Readings : Acts 4:32-37 Jn. 3:7-15

Intentions : Students St. John Boys Hostel, Peshawar

That we become sensitive to the needs of others

Anniversary : 1917 – Brothers started to work at St. Mary's, Negombo

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(113) As for Marcellin and the first Brothers so also for us, Mary inspires the style of our fraternal relationships. At the marriage of Cana, Mary is sensitive to the need that has arisen, and with discretion arranges what is required.⁸⁴ She encourages us to exercise authority in a spirit of service to our community, and demonstrates that our actions can spark an increase in the faith of others. At the same time, her words to her Son, *They have no wine*, show her desire to bring those in need to the attention of her Son.

14th Wednesday : Sts. Tiburtius, Maximus & Valerian, Martyrs

Readings : Acts 5: 17-26 Jn. 3:16-21

Intentions : Students & Staff at Boys Town, Rawalpindi

That we believe in the goodness every person possesses

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(114) Mary inspired in the first Marists a new vision of being Church which was modelled on that of the first Christians. This Marian Church has the heart of a mother: no one is abandoned.⁸⁵ A mother believes in the goodness at the core of a person, and forgives readily. We are respectful of each one's personal journey. There is a place for those with doubts and spiritual uncertainty, a place for all. There is listening and dialogue. Challenge and confrontation are done with honesty and openness.

15th Thursday : St. Benedict Joseph Labre, Confessor

Readings : Acts 5:27-33 Jn 3:31-36

Intentions : Community at Holy Cross College, Kalutara

That we be ready to forgive and reconcile

Birthdays : Br. Chinthana Nonis

Anniversary : 1884 – Union of Brothers of Viviers with our congregation. Some 31 Brothers made their vows in our Congregation at the October retreat of that year.

Reflection : Water from the Rock

Those who share in Champagnat's spirituality are practical, down-to-earth people. We are well aware that living in a family or a community is not always smooth sailing. From time to time, We experience our fragility, our limits, our differences and we get hurt and wounded. We may also feel angry towards ourselves and others, or become lonely and bitter. To sustain the life of our fraternity we need to live an ongoing process of reconciliation. This process enables us to return to the centre of our community, Jesus. We can know ourselves as loved and empowered to grow through difficulties. Through God's mercy and forgiveness we can find the energy and grace to work for reconciliation. (115,116)

16th Friday

Readings : Acts 5:34-42 Jn. 6:1-15

Intentions : Community at Nugegoda

For our candidates and aspirants

Anniversary : Death of Br. Dela (1985) & Br. Valentine (1989)

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(117) Shared faith enables us to see beyond problems and differences. Community is a gift of the Spirit. To nurture this life in the Spirit, and to encourage and support each other, we endeavour to make our communities schools of faith for ourselves, for young people and for all who hunger for God. Our experience of God becomes bread to be shared.

17th Saturday : St. Anicetus, Pope & Martyr

Readings : Acts 6:1-7 Jn. 6:16-21

Intentions : Community at Trichy

Brother Superior General and his Council

Anniversary: 1921 – The consecration of the Congregation to St. Joseph

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(118) Sharing and celebrating our faith through prayer in common is a powerful means to build up communion.⁸⁸ Each time we gather to pray and celebrate the Eucharist, our union with Jesus impels us to full communion, with ourselves, with God, with one another, and with creation. The deeper we live the moments of our daily life, and the way we relate to others and the world, the more meaningful will be our prayer and liturgical celebrations.

18th Sunday : 3rd Sunday of Easter

Office : Proper of Easter & Psalter Week 3

Readings : Acts 5: 27-32, 40-41 Apoc. 5:11-14 Jn. 21:1-19

Intentions : Community at Marist Novitiate, Tudella
For Marist Family

That we be brothers to all we meet

Birthdays : Br. Nicholas Fernando

Anniversary : 1907 – Death of Br. Theophane, in Spain. 4th Superior General

1999 – Canonization of our Founder

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(119) The terms *brother* and *sister* express in a very rich way the Marist style of relating.⁹⁰ A brother or sister is one who is approachable, unassuming, authentic, attentive and respectful. Brothering and sistering are ways of relating that affirm others and inspire in them confidence and hope.

19th Monday : 3rd Week of Easter

Office : Proper of Easter & Psalter Week 3

Readings : Acts 6:8-15 Jn. 6: 22-29

Intentions : Marist Community at Peshawar

Students & Staff at Electro Institute

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(120) Our world and its peoples always need hope. We can be both beautifully creative and mindlessly destructive. We may fear the “other.” If we then tend to see ourselves as the centre of the universe and our way as the “only true way,” conflicts will arise - in families and communities, but also between nations. Living as sisters and brothers offers a hopeful and caring means by which our differences enrich our communion. Marist fraternity becomes a sign of hope for the world with a growing need for tolerance and peace.

20th Tuesday

Readings : Acts 7:51 – 8:1 Jn. 6:30-35

Intentions : Community at Mangamanuthu

That we understand and respect cultures and religions other than our own

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(121) In a multicultural and multi-religious world, there is an urgent need to develop intercultural structures that show how to live this reality constructively. Communities that are multicultural invite us to share in the richness of other traditions and faiths, to grow in respect and tolerance, and to celebrate the abundance of God’s loving presence. They provide a special witness against tendencies towards fundamentalism, xenophobia and exclusion.

21st Wednesday : St. Anselm, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

Readings : Acts 8:1-8 Jn 6:35-40

Intentions : Community at Our Lady’s Hermitage

That we make our communities, life-giving communities

Birthdays : Br. Paul S. Bhatti

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(123) As companions on the journey, called to build life-giving communities, we are inspired by the words of Marcellin Champagnat: *I beg of you, my brothers, with all the affection of my soul, and by all the love you have for me, do all you can to ensure that charity is always maintained among you. Love one another as Jesus Christ has loved you. Be of one heart and one mind. May it be said of the Little Brothers of Mary as of the first Christians: “See how they love one another.” This is the most ardent desire of my heart at this, the last moment of my life. Yes, my very dear brothers, listen to the words of your Father, they are the words of our loving saviour: “Love one another.”*

22nd Thursday

Readings : Acts 8:26-40 Jn. 6:44-51

Intentions : Community at Maris Stella College

That we take an active part in the mission of Jesus

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(124) Marist spirituality, being apostolic, is lived out on mission*. The mission of Marist apostles is born of the experience of being loved by God and of our desire to actively participate in the mission of Jesus. God is passionate about the world and its people, and Jesus expresses this love by a ministry of teaching and healing. *I came that you may have life, and have it abundantly.*⁹⁶ Like Jesus we recognise the urgings of the Spirit within, calling us to witness to this Good News. Out of these inner promptings, the mission of the Church is born: to proclaim the Kingdom of God as a new way of living for humanity, a new way to relate with God. We join in this mission of the Church as we look upon the world with compassion.

23rd Friday : St. George, Martyr & St. Albert of Prague, Bishop & Martyr
World Day of Scouts
Readings : Acts 9:1-20 Jn 6:52-59
Intentions : Community at Sargodha
Br. Provincial and Province leadership team

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(125) What we see in the world both amazes and shocks us. On the one hand, we celebrate the beauty and diversity of nature and its wondrous harmony. We rejoice too in the rich cultural diversity of humankind.... Yet we also come face to face with violence and insecurity, poverty and despair, AIDS and child abuse, ecological degradation and starvation, illiteracy and ignorance.

24th Saturday : St. Fidelis, Martyr
Readings : Acts 9:31-42 Jn 6: 60-69
Intentions : Community at P. Udayapatti
For people who are committed to serve the needy

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(126) It is encouraging how many people, including the young, facing such apparently hopeless situations, are responding with passion and commitment. Involved in groups, they work in solidarity to make a better world for all. They seek companions who not only share their passion, but also the wisdom not to lose hope in the face of so much pain and suffering. These are men and women with a spirituality of compassion and mission. Their choices are a source of inspiration to us.

25th Sunday : 4th Sunday of Easter
(St. Mark, Evangelist)
Office : Proper of Easter & Psalter Week 4
Readings : Acts. 13:14, 43-52 Apoc. 7:9, 14-17 Jn. 10:27-30
Intentions : Community at Marcellin Nivasa
Mission Ad Gentes Communities in Asia
That we be challenged by the cry of the poor
Anniversary : 1999 – Final vows of Br. Roshan Silva

Reflection : Water from the Rock

The cries of the world, especially those of poor people, touch the heart of God and ours as well. The depth of God's compassion challenges us to be men and women whose hearts have no bounds since *in his infinite love, God continues to be totally involved with all men and women and today's world, with its disappointments and hopes*. Our Marist charism* prompts us to be attentive to the calls of our time, to the longings and preoccupations of people, especially the young. Surpassing religious and cultural borders we seek the same dignity for all: human rights, justice, peace, and equitable and responsible sharing of the planet's wealth. (127,128)

26th Monday : 4th Week of Easter
Office : Proper of Easter & Psalter Week 4
Readings : Acts 11:1-18 Jn. 10:1-10
Intentions : Community at Haldanduwana
That we be compassionate to the needs of the poor

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(129) Our compassionate response to the needs of the world wells up from our spirituality. Spirituality draws us into mission and, in living that mission, finds itself nourished and rekindled. It gives meaning to our human experiences and allows us to read life with the eyes and heart of God and to understand it as God's project.

27th Tuesday : St. Zita, Virgin
Readings : Acts 11:19-26 Jn. 10:22-30
Intentions : Community at Boys Town, Pindi
For Community superiors
Anniversary : 1833 – The congregation was consecrated to the Sacred Heart and associated with the Apostolate of Prayer.

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(130) Central to the apostolic zeal of Marcellin Champagnat* is his experience of an all-embracing presence of God.⁹⁸ He is sure that every moment of his life is immersed in this divine presence. God's will is revealed to him through the daily

experiences of life. Having determined that something is willed by God it becomes part of his mission. He does not spare himself in its accomplishment. Yet he retains the firm conviction that it is God's work, not his. His core belief is that *unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain*.

28th Wednesday : St. Peter Chanel, Priest & Martyr & St. Louis Mary de Montfort, Priest

Readings : Acts 12: 24 – 13:5 Jn. 12:44-50

Intentions : Community at Kalpitiya

For Marist Fathers & their missions

Anniversary : 1841 – Peter Chanel, Marist priest, was martyred on the island of Futuna

Reflection : Water from the Rock

131. Mary inspired Marcellin's style of being on mission. She received the Holy Spirit at the Annunciation and responded immediately to Elizabeth's need.¹⁰⁰ In so doing, she shows us that contemplation* and action are both indispensable elements of spirituality. Mary's way lays the foundation of all our actions: listening, patient waiting, nurturing interiority and responsiveness to God's will.

29th Thursday : St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor of the Church

Readings : Acts 13: 13-25 Jn. 13: 16-20

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

That we be ready to leave our comfort zones in order to respond to God's call

Anniversary : 1836 - Pope Gregory XVI by the decree *Omnium Gentium* approved the Society of Marist Fathers

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(132) Confirmed in her own vocation* by the invitation of the Spirit, Mary feels compelled to leave her own house to enter the house of another. She indicates for us the direction of mission - that we are to meet others where they are.

30th Friday : St. Pius V, Pope

Readings : Acts 13: 26-33 Jn. 14:1-6

Intentions : Our Brothers at MAPAC

For Brothers having vocation crisis

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(133) Mary, as a sensitive and compassionate disciple, goes "in haste," responding quickly to those who need her.¹⁰² She goes "in haste" to joyfully announce the news of a God who loves, and the sure promise that a reign of justice and faithfulness is at hand. She brings to Elizabeth both her hands for service and her experience of the Spirit.

May

Intentions of the Holy Father

Human Trafficking

General: That the shameful and monstrous commerce in human beings, which sadly involves millions of women and children, may be ended.

Priests, Religious and Committed Lay People

Missionary: That ordained ministers, religious women and men, and lay people involved in apostolic work may understand how to infuse missionary enthusiasm into the communities entrusted to their care.

1st Saturday : St. Joseph the Worker - May Day, Labour Day

Readings : Acts 13: 44-52 Jn. 14: 7-14 (Feast Gene. 1:26 – 2:3 Mt. 13: 54-58)

Intentions : That we make Jesus the center of our lives

That the workers may be given their due rights and proper wages

Anniversaries : 1825 – La Valla community took up residence in its new home at the Hermitage

1974 – Indian mission started by the Sri Lankan brothers

Reflection : Water from the Rock

(135) All Marists share the same mission: *to make Jesus known and loved*. As apostles we passionately centre our lives in Jesus. We allow ourselves to be captivated by him and his gospel. Close to him, we want to form our hearts. Learning from him the ways of the Kingdom, we communicate his message and his way of being and acting through our presence, our words and our deeds.

2nd Sunday : 5th Sunday of Easter
(St. Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor of the Church)
Office : Proper of Easter & Psalter Week 1
Readings : Acts 14:21-27 Apoc. 21:1-5 Jn. 13: 31-35
Intentions : Community at Holy Cross College, Kalutara
For Br. Provincial and his Leadership Team
Birthdays : Br. Sesu

Reflection : Water from the Rock
136. Jesus lives out his mission by both word and witness. In his relationships Jesus transcends boundaries of religion and culture. In these encounters, he values and affirms, and he challenges.

3rd Monday : 5th Week of Easter – Sts Philip & James, Apostles
World Press Freedom Day
Office : Proper of Easter & Psalter Week 1
Readings : Acts 14:5-18 Jn. 14:21-26
Intentions : Community at Nugegoda
Our diseased Brothers, parents and relations
That our lives reflect the presence of God
Birthdays : Br. Anthony Francois
Anniversary : 1840 – Fr. Champagnat offered Mass at the Hermitage for the last time

Reflection : Water from the Rock
137. For the people we meet each day we seek to be reflections of God. Our desire is to be a visible and permanent memory of the loving and merciful presence of God in the midst of people: *living signs of the Father's tenderness*. In some mysterious way, God works through us and in us. Despite our limitations, which we well know, our goodness is able to come through. By being with God we learn our way of being like him: shepherd, friend, faithful companion.

4th Tuesday
Readings : Acts 14: 19-28 Jn 14: 27-31
Intentions : Community at Trichy
That we be brothers to all
Reflection : Water from the Rock
138. Marcellin chose to call the first Marists at La Valla* "Brothers."¹⁰⁹ He believes in the strength of love that builds fraternity and heals wounds. Drawn by a love that knows no bounds, he feels compelled to be Brother to all the world. His vision extends far beyond his own time and place: *All the dioceses of the world enter in our plans*.

5th Wednesday : St. Angelo
Readings : Acts 15:1-6 Jn 15:1-8
Intentions : Community at Marist Novitiate, Tudella
That our relationships radiate compassion and joy
Anniversary : 2000 – Death of Br. Isaac

Reflection : Water from the Rock
139. Irrespective of where we live our mission or with whom, being a "brother" means that our relationships are consistently simple, welcoming, and encouraging through compassion, joy and kindness. We are brothers and sisters of those we meet along life's journey. This is how we live out our Marist Apostolic Spirituality and give flesh to our mission.

6th Thursday : St. Dominic Savio
Readings : Acts 15: 7-21 Jn. 15:9-11
Intentions : Community at Peshawar
That we encourage each others mission in our communities
Anniversary : 1818 – Gabriel Rivat (Br. Frabcois) entered the novitiate in La Valla

Reflection : Water from the Rock
140. Our mission is communal. The community of Marist apostles sustains and encourages us. In encountering fellow Marists, we experience affirmation of our faith and apostolic intuitions, and in joining with like-minded people, our apostolic activities are given renewed energy.

7th Friday

Readings : Acts 15:22-31 Jn 15: 12-17

Intentions : Community at Mangamanuthu
That we become sowers of hope

Reflection : Water from the Rock

141. Marist apostles carry out their mission by building communities that are sacred spaces where people can find God and meaning for their lives. Willingly we welcome youth seeking meaningful relationships with people whom they can trust. In this way, together we become *sowers of hope*, and show them they are dearly loved by God.

8th Saturday : St. Magdalene of Canossa, Virgin

Readings : Acts 16: 1-10 Jn 15:18-21

Intentions : Community at Our Lady's Hermitage
That our lives become an inspiration for young people
Anniversary : 1994 – Br. Henry Verges was martyred in Algeria

Reflection : Water from the Rock

142. Moved by this love we seek out occasions and reasons to be with young people, to enter their world and to journey alongside them. *For many of them, we shall be the only 'gospel' they will read.* We inspire young people to be creative in developing their own identity by facing new challenges in life and widening their understanding of themselves, of others, of the world, and of God.

9th Sunday : 6th Sunday of Easter

Office : Proper of Easter & Psalter Week 2

Readings : Acts 15:1-2, 22-29 Apoc. 21:10-14, 22-23 Jn. 14: 23-29

Intentions : Community at Sargodha
For our community superiors

Reflection : Water from the Rock

143. In seeking to be present in the world of young people, at times we will encounter injustice, suffering and sometimes evil. Jesus invites us to incorporate these experiences into our lives as a sharing in his Paschal Mystery - the unity of Good Friday and Easter Sunday, the paradox of failure producing life, life drawn from suffering.

10th Monday : 6th Week of Easter

Office : Proper of Easter & Psalter Week 2

Readings : Acts 16: 11-15 Jn. 15 26 – 16:4

Intentions : Community at P. Udayapatti
Marist candidates in our province
Birthdays : Br. Raj Kumar

Reflection : Water from the Rock

144. In following Jesus and living out our mission we are inspired by Marcellin's passionate and practical approach. With a heart for poor children and youth, Marist apostles seek concrete responses to their painful reality.

11th Tuesday

Readings : Acts 16: 22-34 Jn. 16: 5-11

Intentions : Community at Marcellin Nivasa
For Mission Ad Gentes communities in Asia

Anniversary : 1840 – Fr. Champagnat received the Anointing of the sick and gave his final blessing to the brothers at the Hermitage

Reflection : Water from the Rock

146. For us, education is a privileged place for evangelisation and human promotion. The range of our educational works is broad – in response to the changing needs of young people wherever they are to be found. In focusing on them, each Marist ministry *shows a preference for those to whom preference is never shown.*

12th Wednesday : Sts. Nereus & Achilleus, Martyrs, St. Pancras, Martyr

Readings : Acts 17: 15, 22-18:1 Jn. 16: 12-15

Intentions : Community at Haldanduwana

That we be creative in finding new ways to evangelize the youth

Reflection : Water from the Rock

147. Seeking to be with young people in their circumstances impels us to create new ways of education and evangelisation. Marists find themselves in a variety of pastoral roles working with other committed people, giving a face to compassion, and hands and voice to promote justice.

13th Thursday : Our Lady of Fatima

Readings : Acts 18:1-8 Jn. 16:16-20

Intentions : Community at Boy's Town, Rawalpindi

That we be continually open to the Spirit

Reflection : Water from the Rock

148. The Spirit speaks God's love ever afresh into our world.¹¹⁶ Like Champagnat we desire to be continually open to its movement and urgings. The dying Jean-Baptiste Montagne* impelled Marcellin to begin his project of having Brothers to teach the deprived children of the rural areas. Who are *our* Montagnes? Who today compels in us an apostolic response? These are leading questions in our ongoing discernment.

14th Friday : St. Matthias, Apostle, Martyr

Readings : Acts 18:9-18 Jn. 16:20-23

Intentions : Community at Kalpitiya

That we be generous to move into missions that are challenging and need our presence

Reflection : Water from the Rock

149. So we direct our journey to those places where others would prefer not to go, to enter into the suffering there, like Mary at the foot of the Cross, and to be a presence and service that remains faithful, despite its risks. *This experience urges us to move ahead, with courage and apostolic zeal to difficult missions, to marginalised areas, and unexplored surroundings, where the seed of the kingdom has not yet taken root.* When our mission is concluded, we move on to new places that require our presence.

15th Saturday

International Day of Families

Readings : Acts 18: 23-28 Jn. 16: 23-28

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

That Mary be the Model of our spirituality

Reflection : Water from the Rock

Our spirituality, Marial and apostolic, invites us to look to Mary as Jesus' First Disciple for our response. She is for us a model of listening, of love for poor people, and of welcoming the message of God. Her way of living the Word of God inspires us and directs us along the way we should go. Like Mary, we not only magnify the Lord with our lips, but commit ourselves to serve God's justice with our lives. In her last words, recorded in the Gospels, Mary directs us: "Do whatever he tells you." (151,152)

16th Sunday : Solemnity of The Ascension of the Lord

Office : Proper of the Ascension

Readings : Acts 1:1-11 Eph. 1:17-23 Lk. 24: 46-53

Intentions : For our brothers in MAPAC

Brother Superior General and his council

Reflection : Water from the Rock

153. The statue of St Marcellin that stands in one of the niches on the external façade of St. Peter's Basilica represents our Founder carrying a young boy on his shoulders. We see in this artistic expression a symbol of the strength and powerful inspiration of Marist Spirituality for the world of today. It illustrates too the Marist belief of being raised upon the shoulders of a vigorous spiritual tradition, able to carry us into a future filled with the promise of vitality and hope.

17th Monday : 7th Week of Easter

Office : Proper of 7th Week of Easter & Psalter Week 3

Readings : Acts 19:1-8 Jn. 16: 29-33

Intentions : Staff & Students of Marist Schools in Pakistan

That we make Jesus known and loved among youth

Birthdays : Br. John Kumarasinghe Perera

Reflection : Water from the Rock

155. Sustained by the faith and example of St. Marcellin and the first Brothers, Marist spirituality urges us to move towards unexplored horizons: - Like St. Marcellin, seeking out the poor Montagnes* of his day, we endeavour to become effective Marist educators of faith today: we open new ways that enable youth to be transformed by the experience of knowing and loving Jesus.

18th Tuesday : St. John I, Pope & Martyr

Readings : Acts 20:17-27 Jn. 17:1-11

Intentions : Staff & Students of Marist Schools in India

That we be open to dialogue with other religions and cultures

Anniversary : 1840 – The Spiritual Testament of Fr. Champagnat was read by Br. Louis Marie to the Brothers assembled around Marcellin's bedside

Reflection : Water from the Rock

- Like St. Marcellin, moving from hamlet to hamlet on the hills of the Pilat*, we readily carry the gift of education and Marist presence to places and situations that might require abandoning securities and even risking our lives.

- Like St. Marcellin, humbly anchored on the rock of God's unconditional love, we actively engage in creating new paths of inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue.

19th Wednesday : St. Peter Celestin V, Pope

Readings : Acts 20: 28-38 Jn. 17:11-19

Intentions : Staff & Students of Marist Schools in Sri Lanka

That we help young people to discover their vocation in life

Reflection : Report of the Superior General & Council

Within the Church there are a variety of vocations and an essential part of our ministry with young people is to accompany them in taking up their vocation. Stemming from our own commitment as a Council community to the Year of Vocations, we have **met with groups of young people** in each region of the Institute. We have used these meetings as a concrete means of listening to the experience of young people; their experience of life and of the Church, their contact with Marist ministries, and their perception of Marist Religious Life. Some Provincial Councils have implemented a similar process – as a team dialoguing with groups of young people.

20th Thursday : St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest

Readings : Acts 22:30, 23:6-11 Jn. 17: 20-26

Intentions : Students and staff of Electro

Brothers involved in formation

Anniversary : 1789 – Birth of Marcellin Champagnat in La Rosey

Reflection : Report of the Superior General & Council

We believe that a key challenge facing Initial Formation is that the programs give **priority to spirituality, consecration, and evangelization**. In simple terms, the role of our communities of formation is to form Young Brothers, in love with Jesus, and on fire to proclaim the Good News. Such an outcome is not possible without a team whose principal responsibility is formation.

21st Friday : St. Eugene de Mazenod, Founder of the OMI Congregation

International day for Cultural Diversity for dialogue and development

Readings : Acts 25:13-21 Jn. 21: 15-19

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

For our pre-novitiate programs

Anniversary : 1789 – Marcellin Champagnat was baptized at the parish Church in Marlies, on the feast of Ascension.

Reflection : Report of the Superior General & Council

In forming young apostles, we are forming their **Marist and religious identity**. By the conclusion of Initial Formation, both aspects of the identity need to be deeply developed. A key agent in this process is the formation community itself. We believe that to be effective the community needs to be composed of a number of young men (not an individual) who are being formed together and who also form each other.

22nd Saturday : St. Rita of Cascia - Vigil of Pentecost
International day for Bio-diversity
Readings : Acts 28: 16-20, 30-31 Jn. 21: 20-35
Intentions : Students of St. John's Hostel, Peshawar
That we realize how significant our lives are

Reflection : Report of the Superior General & Council

The vitality of our life and mission in many places of the Institute requires of us a fresh and compelling vision of Marist Religious Life lived in the 21st Century. This is the challenge underneath what is often expressed as the need to clarify the identity of the Marist Brother. Until this occurs we run the risk of living our commitment with hesitancy and our vocational ministry being undermined. We also see an '*a la carte*' approach to spirituality. It is selective and individualistic, without an appropriate place for participation in the Marist community and the church. In other instances we see a weakening of faith, which has diminished the sense of consecration, and seriously weakened the understanding of Religious Life. In many places Lay Marists are taking their rightful place in the spirituality and mission of Marcellin's charism. As the identity of Lay Marists develops, Brothers are asking themselves: what then is identity of a Marist Brother?

23rd Sunday : Solemnity of Pentecost

Office : Proper of the Solemnity

Readings : (Day Mass) Acts 2:1-11 1 Cor. 12:3-7, 12-13 Jn. 20:19-23

Intentions : For Marist Lay partners

Marist mission in Kalpitiya

Reflection : Report of the Superior General & Council

That there be a focus on the **authentic living** of the **core values of Religious Life** (holiness, consecration, community, mission, vows) according to a creative fidelity to our charism. The processes would need to include a thorough re-education of ourselves about such terms as vocation, and call; the vocations that exist within the Church – both their distinctiveness and their complementarity. We believe the process would be assisted by a study of both the religious and apostolic dimensions of the vocation. Such a process would strengthen the '**culture of vocation**' which we believe is necessary for the vitality of the Institute.

End of Eastertide

24th Monday : 8th Week in Ordinary Time

Office : Week 4

Readings : 1 Peter 1:3-9 Mk. 10:17-27

Intentions : Community at Holy Cross College, Kalutara

That we make Jesus the center of our community

Anniversary : 1961 – General House was transferred from Saint Genis Laval to Rome

Reflection : Report of the Superior General & Council

All the same, our type of community is distinguished from many others; it is not the fruit of human will. It is not the result of social development. It is brought together by Jesus Christ, and built upon his person. In this way, wherever it is implanted the Marist religious community is a sign of the presence of Jesus. Marcellin assigned it the specific mission of radiating the love of Jesus among youth, especially the most neglected. We believe, and this is our strength, that when **Jesus is the centre of our community** we are people and a group always new. Jesus turns us, as a community, towards a future to be transformed by the power of his Gospel.

25th Tuesday : St. Bede the Venerable, Priest & Doctor of the Church, St. Gregory VII, Pope

Readings : 1 Peter 1:10-16 Mk. 10:28-31

Intentions : Community at Nugegoda

For our community leaders

Anniversary : 1975 – Br. Leonidas, 7th SG, died in France

Reflection : Report of the Superior General & Council

The call to give more vitality to our communities, is therefore to renew them in such a way that they may set out again from their true foundations. Thus, not only are they strengthened from within to become places of growth and development for the Brothers, but they also become a sign, a presence and a **prophetic witness** at the heart of society.

26th Wednesday : St. Philip Neri, Priest

Readings : 1 Peter 1:18-25 Mk. 10: 32-45

Intentions : Community at Trichy

Reflection : Report of the Superior General & Council

We are convinced that the concrete way to revitalise community is first of all to make it simple and viable by cultivating within it **human values** which manifest mutual trust among the Brothers. The new climate thus created reveals the presence of Jesus and fosters adherence to a vision of community as an essential value for the vitality of the Institute.

27th Thursday : St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop

Readings : 1 Peter 2:2-5, 9-12 Mk. 10: 46-52

Intentions : Community at Marist Novitiate, Tudella
Brothers involved in formation

Anniversary : 1903 – Pope Leo XIII approved the Constitutions of the Marist Brothers

Reflection : Report of the Superior General & Council

In face of the growing complexity of society, the Brothers and the young people entrusted to us need communities where Marist life is lived in simplicity. They need these **havens of freedom and serenity** where they find a hearing and can meet Jesus. The formation of communities - living, welcoming and impregnated with simplicity - is a crucial aspect of our mission today.

28th Friday : St. Germanus, Bishop

Readings : 1 Peter 4: 7-13 Mk. 11:11-26

Intentions : Community at Peshawar

That we be open to each other in our communities

Reflection : Report of the Superior General & Council

We have seen that the Brothers have **varied perceptions** of community. According to their age, formation, type of apostolate, etc. the Brothers tend to develop a particular vision of community. For example, the new generations live personal responsibility as an essential trait of their religious and community life, while older Brothers place a greater value on structures and religious discipline. These two approaches complement each other by their evangelical content, provided that the differences encourage the creation of homes enlivened by mutual listening and dialogue between generations

29th Saturday

Readings : Jude 17: 20-25 Mk. 11: 27-33

Intentions : Community at Mangamanuthu

That our communities become prophetic

Anniversary : 1955 – Pope Pius XII beatified Marcellin Chanpagnat

Reflection : Report of the Superior General & Council

The **individualistic and independent** mentality characteristic of current society causes havoc in communities. In addition, the tendency to view community as a **simple social phenomenon** is spreading. The prophetic dimension, essential to the very existence of community life, gets weaker and sometimes tends to disappear. In this case, it becomes fashionable to reduce good community life to a simple question of efficient organization and courtesy.

30th Sunday : Solemnity of The Most Holy Trinity

(St. Joan of Arc, Virgin & Martyr)

Office : Proper of the Feast

Readings : Proverbs 8:22-31 Romans 5:1-5 Jn. 16:12-15

Intentions : Community at Our Lady's Hermitage

That we have an attitude of openness to welcome laity into our mission and communities

Anniversary : 1938 – Death of Br. Marie Julian, who worked in Sri Lanka

Reflection : Report of the Superior General & Council

In recent years the Institute has indeed followed a challenging path, Brothers and lay people walking it together. We believe that even the title that the document gives this Call expresses well the fundamental invitation, directed **especially to the Brothers**: "With the laity: widen the space of your tent". A clear invitation, then, for every Brother, every Marist community, to open doors and hearts, to welcome without pre-judging, to be enriched by sharing.

31st Monday : (9th Week in Ordinary Time) The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

World No Tobacco Day

Office : Proper of the Feast

Readings : (Feast) Zephaniah 3:14-18 Lk. 1: 39-56

Intentions : Community at Maris Stella College

Students and staff of Maris Stella College

Birthdays : Br. Jayaraj

Anniversary : 1975 – First vows of Br. Devasiri

1852 – Opening of the 2nd General Chapter

Reflection : Report of the Superior General & Council

In its final Statement, the Marist International Mission Assembly noted the importance of guaranteeing **the right to education for children and young people**, and it noted some present day challenges; “an education that evangelizes; education that is committed to solidarity and social transformation, respectful of cultures and of environment, and a non-discriminatory education that creates a place for those who do not have it.” Such words appear to us as offering a complete action plan for the Institute in the coming years.

June

Intentions of the Holy Father

Respect for Human Life

General: That every national and transnational institution may strive to guarantee respect for human life from conception to natural death.

The Churches in Asia

Missionary: That the Churches in Asia, which constitute a “little flock” among non-Christian populations, may know how to communicate the Gospel and give joyful witness to their adherence to Christ.

1st Tuesday : St. Justin, Martyr

Office : Week 1

Readings : 2 Peter 3: 11-15, 17-18 Mk. 12:13-17

Intentions : Community at Sargodha

Birthdays : Br. Albert Anthonyamy

That we be aware of the social changes happening around us

Reflection : Report of the Superior General & Council

For some years, observers and students of social reality have been saying that we are assisting at the **birth of a new civilization**. It is a question of a metamorphosis of society which affects all aspects of individual and collective life, the relations of human beings with space and time, fertility and demography, social relationships at work and relaxation, the situation of women, customs, values, and power relationships. One of the novelties of this present time is that this change in world vision, this modifying of cultures and customs, is affecting **the whole of humanity** which is in search of new equilibriums.

2nd Wednesday : St. Marcellinus & St. Peter, Martyrs

Readings : 2 Timothy 1:1-3, 6-12 Mk. 12: 18-27

Intentions : Community at P. Udayapatti

For young men in our contact programs

Anniversary : 1988 – First mission at P. Udayapatti

Reflection : Report of the Superior General & Council

The Church, insofar as it is a human institution, “is not an ethereal entity” and, as such, sees itself **profoundly influenced** by what is happening in the societies in which it is incarnated. Today too, as in other times in the history of humanity which have seen similar phenomena of profound change, religions undergo important internal crises caused by adaptation (and resistance) to the new realities.

3rd Thursday Sts. Charles Lwanga & his Companions, Martyrs

Readings : 2 Timothy 2:8-15 Mk. 12: 28-34

Intentions : Community at Marcellin Nivasa

That we are open to the new ways of evangelization

Anniversary : 1963 – Death of Pope John XXIII in Rome

2006 – Final vows of Bros Santhosh & Esuraja

Reflection : Report of the Superior General & Council

The Religious Orders or Institutes, as part of the Universal Church, reflect on a smaller scale, what is happening in the totality of the body, which is the Church. They are facing a profound crisis, and there is a question of finding new ways of evangelization more adapted to the men and women of today.

4th Friday :

International day of Innocent Children, victims of aggression

Readings : 2 Timothy 3:10-17 Mk. 12: 35-37
Intentions : Community at Haldanduwana
Br. Provincial & his leadership team

Reflection : Report of the Superior General & Council

It is also for Consecrated Life a **time of crisis**, and it moves forward groping, trying to find what form of Consecrated Life best responds to the needs of men and women of today. These are times of searching, of disorientation, and religious families are experiencing the effects: "In some regions of the world, social changes and the diminution of the number of vocations have harmed the consecrated life. The apostolic works of many Institutes and their very presence in certain local Churches is in danger. As has already occurred at other times in history, there are Institutes which even run the risk of disappearing."

5th Saturday : St. Boniface, Bishop & Martyr
World Environment Day

Readings : 2 Timothy 4:1-8 Mk. 12: 38-44

Intentions : Community at Boy's Town, Rawalpindi

That we protect our environment through our education programs and catechesis

Reflection : Report of the Superior General & Council

We have felt a strong invitation to a change of heart. Yes, we **need new hearts**. We feel that cosmetic changes are not enough to confront the formidable challenges of the historic time in which we have the privilege of living. It fills us with hope to know that the Lord goes before us on the way towards the Galilee of our daily life where, according to his promise, we will be able to see him (Mk 16.7).

6th Sunday : Solemnity of Body and Blood of Christ
(St. Marcellin Champagnat , St. Norbert, Bishop)
Office : Proper of the Feast

Readings : Gen. 14:18-20 1 Cor. 11:23-26 Lk. 9: 11-17

Intentions : For Marist Brothers throughout the world

For Vocations to Marist life

Anniversary : 1840 – St. Marcellin died at the Hermitage

1961 – Introduction in Rome of the causes of Beautification of 21 Brothers martyred in Spain

Reflection : Report of the Superior General & Council

A globalization which begins to be seen as a **new era for the earth and for humanity**. The last centuries of the history of humanity have been characterized by an accent, at times aggravated, on the Nation-States. A new consciousness is emerging today of finding ourselves all in a world for which we are globally responsible: the Earth as our Common Home. Already in 1933 Teilhard de Chardin was writing prophetically: "The age of nations has passed. If we do not want to die, it is time to shake off the old prejudices and build the Earth. The Earth will not become conscious of itself unless there is a crisis of conversion and transformation."

7th Monday : St. Marcellin Champagnat

Office : Proper Office of the Founder

Readings : (Feast) 1 Cor. 1:25-31 Ps. 127 Mk. 10:13-16

Intentions : For Marist Brothers throughout the world

For vocations to Marist life

Reflection : Report of the Superior General & Council

In some parts of the Institute, owing perhaps to the ageing of their members and the growing weight of the administration of our works, the Brothers are becoming **alienated from the young**. We believe that all are invited to reverse this trend and "become instead the Church's experts on the evangelization of poor children and young people, wherever they might be found."

8th Tuesday : 10th Week in Ordinary Time

Office : Week 2

Readings : 1 Kings 17: 7-16 Mt. 5: 13-16

Intentions : Community at Kalpitiya

That we be drawn to spirituality than religiosity

Anniversary : 1840 – Solemn funeral rites for Marcellin Champagnat

Reflection : Report of the Superior General & Council

“Our present age is characterized by a thirst for spirituality.” Recent studies, centred on traditionally “Christian” countries, show that two out of every three adults have a personal spirituality, while fewer than one in ten go to Church regularly. This period of history in which we are privileged to live demonstrates a powerful credulity and thirst for Mystery. The Christian faith finds here a reminder of something fundamental and a stimulus to respond.

9th Wednesday : St. Ephrem, Deacon & Doctor of the Church

Readings : 1 Kings 18: 20-39 Mt. 5: 17-19

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

That we offer God to the youth through experience

Reflection : Report of the Superior General & Council

Today the demand is for experience, not merely words about God. At present, the need is to approach God, to offer an experience of God. The task turns on the evangelist and requires that he speaks of what he has experienced. “Spiritual masters” are required who accompany the pilgrim on the way and give direction. We speak of the cultivation of prayer, meditation, of silence, of spreading among the majority of believers not only devotional practices, but something deeper and more mature, called wisdom, contemplation, mysticism or change of heart.

10th Thursday

Readings : 1 Kings 18: 41-16 Mt. 5: 20-26

Intentions : Our Brothers in MAPAC

Brothers engage in vocation promotion

Reflection : Report of the Superior General & Council

From what we know of the Institute, we can affirm that we have encountered Brothers truly committed to their spiritual growth; others who “fulfill” their obligations, but do not go much beyond this; others, finally, who live consumed by a frenetic activism. Globally, we have the impression that we have not taken seriously the task of converting ourselves into “spiritual masters” who can give witness from their own experience of God.

11th Friday : Solemnity Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

St. Barnabas, Apostle & Martyr

Office : Proper of the Feast

Readings : Ezek. 34: 11-16 Rom. 5:5-11 Lk. 15:3-7

Intentions : Marist Schools in Pakistan

That our communities become schools of spirituality

Anniversary : 1978 – First vows of Bros. Chinnappan & Lazar

Reflection : Report of the Superior General & Council

We could say something similar of our current communities. It is true, in general, that attempts have been made to improve the conditions of community prayer, but it seems to us that we are still far from shaping community prayer which is strongly connected with life and with our mission. **It does not appear to us that the majority of our communities can be recognized as “schools of spirituality”** for so many people thirsting for God and in search of meaning in their lives.

12th Saturday

World Day against Child Labour

Readings : 1 Kings 19:19-21 Mt. 5: 33-37

Intentions : Marist Schools in India

That we live our spirituality in a profound way

Anniversary : 1954 – Canonization of Peter Chanel, missionary of the society of Mary by Pope Pius XII

Reflection : Report of the Superior General & Council

We believe that the future of the Institute is intricately linked with our capacity to commit ourselves in a serious and profound way to live our spirituality. Not only do we need to offer responses to future vocations with regard to their thirst for God, but we also assist one another to become established in our vocation. The call of *Vita Consecrata* seems to us enormously relevant: “You know whom you have trusted’ (cf. 2 Tim 1, 12): give it all to him! The young do not allow themselves to be deceived: drawing near to you **they desire to see what they do not see elsewhere.**”

13th Sunday : 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

(St. Anthony of Padua)

Office : Week 3

Readings : Samuel 12:7-10, 13 Gal. 2:16, 19-21 Lk. 7:36-8:3

Intentions : Marist schools in Sri Lanka

That we be faithful to our ongoing formation

Reflection : Report of the Superior General & Council

In this same perspective, it seems to us that we must maintain a **position of continuing evaluation of our formation**, so that it really responds to the new needs of today, for individuals as much as for the Institute. In the first place, **Initial Formation**: "However, we must also raise this question: are the young men emerging from our novitiates in love with Jesus Christ, and living portraits of Marcellin Champagnat?" 53 But also **Ongoing Formation**. We think that we must continue being creative, such that the processes we set in motion really favour the commitment to personal growth and provide the means necessary that it may be so.

14th Monday : 11th Week in Ordinary Time

Office : Week 3

Readings : 1 Kings 21:1-16 Mt. 5: 38-42

Intentions : Students and staff of Electro

That we love one another in our communities

Reflection : Marvelous Companions – Sean Sammon SG

Setting up a community with his apostles, Jesus prayed that they and all of us today might be one, as he and the Father are one. That same Father longs for a world where all men and women will come together to form a single human family, a world in which each person is seen and loved by all as a brother or sister.

15th Tuesday

Readings : 1 Kings 21: 17-29 Mt. 5: 43 – 48

Intentions : Students and staff of Boys Town, Pindi

That we take Mary a model for our community life

Birthdays : Br. Paulraj Anthonyamy

Reflection : Marvelous Companions – Sean Sammon SG

Mary has a place of prominence in our life in common. Jesus was the focus of her life; no less must he be the focus of ours. Like those who gathered together on Pentecost, we remain conscious of Mary's presence and her role as Mother of the Church, as well as our Good Mother and sister in faith. We also rely on her to help us live as brothers, and to understand more fully that we make up one body in Christ

16th Wednesday : St. John Francis Regis, Confessor

Readings : 2 Kings 2:1, 6-14 Mt. 6:1-6, 16-18

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

That we be attentive to the needs of others in community

Birthdays : Bros. Sunil, Shanthi and Savarimuthu

Reflection : Marvelous Companions – Sean Sammon SG

Like Mary's life at Nazareth, ours is meant to be simple and hard-working; in imitation of her generosity of heart when visiting Elizabeth and attending the wedding at Cana, we remain attentive to the needs of the community and the world.

17th Thursday

World day to combat Desertification and Drought

Readings : Eccl. 48: 1-14 Mt. 6:7-15

Intentions : Community at Holy Cross College, Kalutara

That we witness to our vows through our community living

Reflection : Marvelous Companions – Sean Sammon SG

In our life in common we witness to the evangelical counsels in a very concrete way. Our devotion to poverty is obvious in our simple style of living, and our willingness to share freely our talents and time with all whose lives we touch. We practice obedience by constantly searching to know God's will. Chastity, a virtue that opens our hearts to friendship, prompts us to receive the love of others as though it is the Lord's own.

18th Friday

Readings : 2 Kings 11:1-4, 9-18,20 Mt. 6:19-23

Intentions : Community at Trichy

Br. Provincial and his leadership team

Reflection : Marvelous Companions – Sean Sammon SG

Within this theological context each of us takes an interest in the life and work of our brothers. We strive to accept one another as different in a number of ways and yet, at the same time, complementary. Because our love for our brothers is unpretentious and wholehearted, we make every effort to sympathize with their difficulties and to share their joys

19th Saturday : St. Romuald, Abbot

Readings : 2 Chronicles 24: 17-25 Mt. 6: 24-34

Intentions : Community at Nugegoda

That we be faithful to our community activities

Birthdays : Br. Mervyn Perera

Anniversary : 2004 – The Cardinal Juan Sandoval opens the process to the canonization of Br. Basilio Rueda

Reflection : Marvelous Companions – Sean Sammon SG

This first group brings a number of gifts to our life together. Any community benefits from a pattern of prayer marked by a regular and predictable rhythm. For most of us, having the ongoing support of a community in our life of personal and communal prayer is a treasure that we often come to value only when we no longer have it. Those committed to regularity in community are also frequently faithful in celebrating the rituals of holidays, birth and feast days, and other special occasions. They are important in the life of any Marist community.

20th Sunday : 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

World Refugee Day

Office : Week 4

Readings : Zechariah 12:10-11 Gal. 3:26-29 Lk. 9: 18-24

Intentions : Community at Marist Novitiate, Tudella

For the people displaced by conflicts in their own countries

Anniversary : 1851 – Decree of legal authorization for the Marist Institute in France

1910 – In Lyons, initial steps taken to promote the cause of Br. Francois

Reflection : Marvelous Companions – Sean Sammon SG

A second group of brothers holds fast to a very different model of community life. For them predictability, punctuality, and regularity are not so important as the quality of the relationships that exist among those in the group. Wanting to promote a level of exchange that moves beyond the superficial, they are keen to talk with others in the group about their affective life and experience of God. Some wonder how best to express their feelings of affection and care, their doubts and preoccupations.

21st Monday : St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious (12th Week in Ordinary Time)

Office : Week 4

Readings : 2 Kings 17:5-8, 13-15, 18 Mt. 7: 1-5

Intentions : Community at Peshawar

For vocations to our province

Reflection : Marvelous Companions – Sean Sammon SG

Sad to say, however, a number of us continue to rely on skills for community life that were meant for another age, a different understanding of life together. As a consequence, we can at times feel lost when faced with the reality of the community today. Take the virtue of charity, for example. Many of us were taught to equate it with long suffering. In reality, however, charity has more to do with speaking the truth in love, than with guarding our words carefully lest we hurt others. Today in a number of quarters, we are in urgent need of acquiring new skills for life together in community.

22nd Tuesday : St. Paulinus of Nola, Bishop, St. John Fisher, Bishop & St. Thomas More, Martyrs

Readings : 2 Kings 19: 9-11, 14-21, 31-36 Mt. 7:6, 12-14

Intentions : Community at Mangamanuthu

That we make an effort to understand other cultures

Reflection : Marvelous Companions – Sean Sammon SG

Multiculturalism, a word used to describe the presence of diverse cultures, provides us with two great challenges today. One, to confront our fear that pluralism will lead to division and disunity. Two, to admit that our knowledge about cultural differences is often based upon little more than a quick look at the tips of several icebergs. So much of another culture is hidden, invisible to the eye.

23rd Wednesday

Readings : 2 Kings 22:8-13, 23:1-3 Mt. 7:15-20

Intentions : Community at Our Lady's Hermitage

For brothers working in cultures other than their own

Anniversary : 1985 – Final vows of Bros Lal Fonseka & Ranjith Perera

1815 – Marcellin Champagnat, John Vianney, and Jean Claude Colin were ordained deacons

Reflection : Marvelous Companions – Sean Sammon SG

As an institute expands, however, and moves its mission into new lands and among new peoples, it faces still another cultural challenge. While respecting the past, it must, at the same time, enter fully into the culture in which it finds itself. Taking time to learn well the language of the people of the region, and studying their history, traditions, and customs are all important signs of respect.

24th Thursday : Birth of John the Baptist

Readings : 2 Kings 24:8-17 Mt. 7: 21-29 (Feast Is. 49:1-6 Acts 13:22-26 Lk. 1:57-66)

Intentions : Community at Maris Stella College

Superior General and his Council

Birthdays : Br. Eric Perera

Reflection : Marvelous Companions – Sean Sammon SG

To be prepared for the demands of Marist life today and in the future, each brother in the Institute would benefit from learning at least one language of the region in addition to his maternal language. Many already speak several, but among those who do not, taking up the challenge of mastering a new language is one concrete step that can be taken to acquire some of the skills that will be needed in the multicultural Marist world that is ours today.

25th Friday

Readings : 2 Kings 25: 1-12 Mt. 8:1-4

Intentions : Community at Sargodha

For young men interested in joining us

Anniversary : 1993 – Inauguration of the Marist Asian Center (MAC)

Reflection : Marvelous Companions – Sean Sammon SG

Some of us, have been encouraged to think of our community as a family, and this is certainly true in our Marist culture. Various images from Scripture and Tradition supported this viewpoint, with an idealized picture of life among the Holy Family at Nazareth heading the list. While life together in any one of our communities can bear witness to some positive aspects of family life, a religious community is not a family. A family, by its very nature, includes relationships between people of unequal status and power.

26th Saturday

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

Readings : Lamentations 2:2, 10-14, 18-19 Mt. 8:5-17

Intentions : Community at P. Udayapatti

That we be a life-giving presence in the world

Reflection : Marvelous Companions – Sean Sammon SG

Religious life was never meant to consist of a group of people who come together solely to live amiably or interact superficially. Rather, we are called to be a searing presence in our world. This end can be accomplished only if we allow God's will to be mediated through our brothers. This holds true for the composition of our communities as much as it does for the ministries we are asked to undertake in the Institute's name and in other areas of our life.

27th Sunday : 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

(St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop & Doctor of the Church)

Office : Week 1

Readings : Kings 19:16, 19-21 Gal. 5: 1, 13-18 Lk. 51-62

Intentions : Community at Marcellin Nivasa

For principals of Marist schools

Anniversary : 1851 – Br. Francois consecrates the Institute to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary

Reflection : Marvelous Companions – Sean Sammon SG

Our Marist communities were founded so we could live the Gospel and proclaim the Word of God. Our primary mission is to love God and to make God known and loved. In defining ourselves as disciples of Jesus Christ, the world outside the community becomes our proper focus.

28th Monday : St. Irenaeus, Bishop & Martyr (13th Week in Ordinary Time)

Office : Week 1

Readings : Amos 2:6-10, 13-16 Mt. 8: 18-22

Intentions : Community at Haldanduwana

For our community superiors

Reflection : Marvelous Companions – Sean Sammon SG

At the same time, our Marist communities are not therapeutic communities. There are, of course, healing aspects to our life together. We can unburden ourselves to one another, and, where the members of the group are mature and generous, mutual support is forthcoming. While a religious community can and must be a place where we thrive humanly and spiritually, the personal growth of its members can never be the primary reason for its existence.

29th Tuesday : Solemnity of Sts Peter & Paul, Apostles

Readings : (Feast) Acts 12:1-11, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18 Mt. 16: 13-19

Intentions : For Pope and Bishops

Reflection : Marvelous Companions – Sean Sammon SG

The chief concern of a therapeutic community is the personal growth of those who make up the group. That is the task that brought them together in the first place; it is also the engine that drives the life of the community. Consequently, the individual and his or her needs have a prominent place in any therapeutic community. If we apply the model of a therapeutic community to Marist religious life, we run the risk of turning our focus inward, thus promoting unrealistic expectations about the community and its members, and distorting the true nature and purpose of Gospel-based community living.

30th Wednesday : The first Martyrs of the Church of Rome

Readings : Amos 5: 14-15, 21-24 Mt. 8:28-34

Intentions : Community at Boys Town, Pindi

Anniversary : 1858 – Jeanne Marie Chavoin, Foundress of the Marist Sisters, Died in France

Reflection : Marvelous Companions – Sean Sammon SG

Solitude, and the loneliness that at times accompanies it, provide us with a means for growing closer to God and other people. You and I can so easily become self-involved. Solitude and loneliness have the potential to draw us out of our self-enclosed world. Both help us understand that that world and our concerns are not what is most important; there is One who is greater than ourselves. Dag Hammarskjöld, who for a time served as Secretary General of the United Nations, put it this way: "Pray that your loneliness may spur you towards finding something to live for, something that is great enough to die for."