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| **Celebration in honour of Brother Alfanofor 1 March (or during the first week of March)** |
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| **Suggestion***A few texts are suggested but we did not set any precise celebration scheme.Each community is invited to choose the prayer structure that suits it.**May this remembrance of Brother Alfano be an opportunity to remind you of some Brothers who were also role models in your provinces’ history. Mention them during this prayer, express what you feel about them.That will mean that Marist holiness is not the privilege of a few rare ones that God would have ‘spoiled’, but that it is among us because‘’the love of God has been poured into our hearts, through the Spirit that was given to us!.’’**Let us not forget to situate this prayer into our Congregation’s present, ‘’To centre our lives on Christ’’, into the present of this world that cannot give itself peace… and into the present of your community or school.***Text 1 :**This text comes from Father Valentino Macca, O.C.D. who was the ‘Relator’ of the cause or the person who guarantees its merits for the Congregation of the Saints, for the theologians, bishops and cardinals. All the other texts were also taken from his presentation except the prayer to the Virgin.‘’The attentive reading of the documents puts us into contact with a religious person whom the first eastern tradition would not have hesitated to place among ‘the lovers of God’, in the concrete sense that was given to this expression. In fact, the servant of God lives in a plenitude of love that seems to make him forget the passage of time. Quoted excerpts of letters show a charity path that not only maintained its freshness but that just became more generous at the end of Alfano’s life. That reminds us of the mature wine, an expression used by Saint John of the Cross to define, '‘the old lovers’’.Brother Alfano showed an exceptional charity during the troubled years of war (1943).He was always in the presence of God. Prayer seemed to accompany him even during recreation time. He had reached this so difficult stage: the unity of his life.’’ (Positio, p.23)**Texte 2: A Reflection of Brother Alfano for his Novices**A living prayer is the one that gives life to everything;That acts like our physical heartsHow does one succeed in praying continually?In setting unity into our lives.By doing everything in God, through God, with God.Let us always make prayer: a preparation to our action;That it may precede , accompany and follow our actions!Let us aim to union with God, let us have recourse to Him,Naturally, like a child to his father.Let us keep an eye, an ear, a hand towards God,In the middle of all our activities, even the most engrossing ones…’’(Informatio – p. 127)**Text 3: What He Was Aiming at:**‘’I live only for this brief moment that we call an ‘instant’.I want to make it totally profitable by saying, ‘’Yes, Father!’’Thus, I make sure my days are filled with God’s will.‘’Yes, Father!’’. This is to live the present moment, the instant that is running away.In the presence of God, accepting his will.Thus the heart constantly prays according to God’s will.’’ (Positio, p. 24)**Text 4: What Brother Alfano Thought of God’s Will**‘’I find it easier to obey than to command;and I strive to side step the highest responsibilities.Anyway however I may feelI will always abide by God’s will,For everything is there:Peace for the presentAnd safety for the future.’’ (Informatio, p. 75)N.B. Brother Alfano was a master of novices for nearly twenty years. He then became the director of the student brothers. Almost up to the end of his life, he was a provincial councillor.**Text 5 : A Few Brief Thoughts**1. My whole being is a fabric made out of God’s gifts. (The day of his perpetual profession)2. I will dedicate myself completely for the others’good. I will not spare myself.3. I want to be kind, to befriend the brothers and youth. I will try to keep encouraging them.I will try to show my charity by being patient, by pausing before correcting.4. What the young ones said of him, ‘’Nobody came out of his office without feeling happier than when he had gone in.’’5. It is agreed that a master must be firm when he commands. Yet, this firmnessmust not exclude his compassion, patience and indulgence. I knew this in theory but I had practised it too little.**Text 6: What He Thinks of Mary**Mary offered herself completely for allShe gave herself to the just ones and to the sinners,To all she opens the treasures of her mercy.She unties the slaves’ fettersShe gives back health to the sick,Consolation to the afflicted ones,Forgiveness to sinners,An increase of grace to the virtuous peopleNobody is excluded from her love. |