**WITH YOU, MARCELLIN**

English version Pam PATTON

Pam is a Lay Marist, involved in animation in the Province of Southern Africa. She is responsible for Ethos and Pastoral Care at Sacred Heart College, Marist Observatory. She teaches spirituality (in a multi-faith context), dance and drama. She is passionate about dance, music, theatre and creative arts education. She loves nature, languages, spiritual exploration and children.

INITIAL SCENE:

*Various groups are presented at the beginning of the action , childrens, brothers, countrymen. Costumed for the First scene, they come from all parts of the room and create a simple choreography to reach the stage. They engage the audience with simple movements . The group of children sing with Marcellin among them.*

**1. CHILDREN CELEBRATE!**

Oh oh oh …..

We’re children at a celebration

To honour Marcellin Champagnat

With you Marcellin, the dream is fulfilled

Every soul has meaning and life

Every soul has meaning and life

Come take a look at us here

not just us, you know;

There are children with us from the past

Also those of today and still more tomorrow.

We are here because we’ve been loved and given life.

You can see just how happy we are!

Oh oh oh …..

We’re children at a celebration

To honour Marcellin Champagnat

With you Marcellin, the dream is fulfilled

Every soul has meaning and life

Every soul has meaning and life

Oh oh oh…

*Marist Brothers arrive to attend the party. All dress with an apron and start dance steps with the whole group after greeting everyone and even the audience.*

BROTHER 1: Good morning. Are you expecting us?

BROTHER 2: All year we have been thinking of this celebration.

BROTHER 3: Yes, I still remember the time when we had just started planning to celebrate something important.

BROTHER 4: Yes, and that 's why we are dressed in aprons, to continue the revival of Marcellin's dream. Hello, Marcellin!

MARCELLIN: Hello, brothers!

**02 BROTHERS IN AN APRON**

Here come Brothers in aprons

They are glad to join the celebration

Here come Brothers in aprons

Everyone let’s start this grand occasion

They arrived just like Our Lady

Simply dressed in their aprons

Open hands and willing hearts

Smiles upon their (shining) faces

And the gift of life for all

Like Mary they are attentive

Speak with actions not with words

They’re in touch with our hearts pain

Come to meet us in our homes

Serving us with humble hands

Here come Brothers in aprons

They are glad to join the celebration

Here come Brothers in aprons

Everyone let’s start this grand occasion

Here come Brothers in aprons

NARRATOR:

We celebrate a bicentennial . Two hundred years of Marist life. 200 years!

MARCELLIN: Two hundred years you say? I cannot believe it has come so soon- yet here we are! There is a lot of life in two hundred years. There are many people in this story. And always children. It's for them that we're here. It is for their happiness, for their protection, for their future. Listen to some memories from the journey.

SCENE 1

 [Birth of Marcellin . French Revolution. Large Family, Marcellin , the last born.]

 MARCELLIN ADULT: So much of my childhood was explained to me. The most important for me was the experience of a family where all of life was embraced. This deeply formed me in my fight for the lives of children. Listen carefully…

*Parents and Marcellin's brothers on stage. The parents on one side with the baby. On the other side, brothers and sisters*.

NARRATOR: We are in 1789, the year of the French Revolution. Inside the Lyon region it was calmer. In Montes- Pilat, the last child of the Champagnat family has just been born.

DAD: Our new little revolutionary has arrived! We will call him Marcellin!

MOM: Yes , revolutionary, but for the Gospel, revolutionary of the Good News of Jesus.

DAD: What are you thinking?

MOM: I think our little Marcellin will be a very important person for our Christian history .

DAD: We will see . We will present him to his brothers.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS.- Welcome, little Marcellin!

**03 GIFT OF LIFE/WELCOME**

Receive the gift of life, here is room for you

The mystery of our love is born, in your flesh and bone

Receive the gift of life, build a hearth of warmth and love,

Gathered round a fire of tenderness

Receive the gift of life

Boy: Every life has equal worth, every life is as important in our story

Girl: It’s our joy to welcome him, to make his life worthy

Both: It’s our joy to welcome him- to honour this new life!

Receive the gift of life, here is room for you

The mystery of our love is born, in your flesh and bone

Receive the gift of life, build a hearth of warmth and love,

Gathered round a fire of tenderness

Receive the gift of life, Receive the gift of life!

SCENE 2

[Marcellin at school. He doesn’t stay there because he does not like the methods of the teacher]

NARRATOR: Marcellin did not have a good experience as a student. Have a look at what happened to him.

TEACHER: Good morning Marcellin.

MARCELLIN: Good morning Sir.

TEACHER: It is your first day of school - come and show me what you can read.

*Marcellin approaches. Another student approaches the teacher’s desk, running.*

STUDENT: I will Sir, I will!

TEACHER: Sit down at once! I did not call you! You’ll get a good hiding!

MARCELLIN: My word! I am not going to receive beatings to learn how to read and write! I would rather stick to farming!

*All the children in the class start to sing:*

**04 CHILDREN OF CREATION**

We’re children of creation

We sing with all our hearts

We’re sent to be your guide, so come

And follow in our steps

We’re children of creation

We sing with all our hearts

We’re sent to be your guide, so come

And follow in our steps

So come

And follow in our steps.

In every man and every woman

There is a small child asleep

Awaken its joys and its dreams

Discover the child in you!

You will grow close to the weakest,

The new-born and poor you will feel.

Let go of your fears and your doubts

Wake up! Live life – here and now!

We’re children of creation

We sing with all our hearts

We’re sent to be your guide, so come

And follow in our steps

We’re children of creation

We sing with all our hearts

We’re sent to be your guide, so come

And follow in our steps

So come

And follow in our steps.

MARCELLIN: This bad school experience left a deep impression on my inner child. I imagined caring schools for children with kind teachers and close attention to each child’s needs.

SCENE 3

[Marcellin as a shepherd. He earned a lot of money farming sheep]

NARRATOR: Marcellin’s father was the mayor. He also had land and cattle. Like his brothers, Marcellin was invited to help out.

FATHER: Marcellin, you can guard the sheep. This sheep is yours – you can sell it as you see fit and keep the money for yourself.

MARCELLIN: Thanks Dad, I’m ready for it. Besides – I love nature and animals! Come my little sheep!

*The children dress as sheep and enter the scene. Marcellin sings:*

**05 I LOVE**

How wonderful here in the mountains

I love the clouds, the sky, the sun

I love the rivers and the trees

I love the whole of creation!

MARCELLIN: And I had a knack with farming – my herd of sheep grew and I made a good profit. Like my father, I was successful in business.

SCENE 4

[the visit of a priest looking for young candidates for the seminary]

NARRATOR: France was very short of priests. And so a priest arrived at Marcellin’s village to invite young men to serve the church. He came to the Champagnat family.

PRIEST: Excuse me, is there someone here who would like to become a priest?

OLDER BROTHER: I am too old to study Latin.

YOUNGER BROTHER: I want to stay with my friends.

PRIEST: And you, Marcellin? What do you think?

MARCELLIN: I don’t know anything, but I would like to think about it for a while.

PRIEST: Okay – I will return tomorrow then.

*The priest leaves the house. Marcellin’s siblings try to discourage him.*

OLDER SISTER: Do you really think you will be able to learn Latin?

MARCELLIN: I can try.

YOUNGER SISTER: You will be far away from us.

MARCELLIN: I can try.

MOTHER: I will pray to Mary for you, Marcellin.

MARCELLIN: Thank you. She and our Good Lord will help me to overcome everything. I will be ready!

ALL: Have courage Marcellin!

*Marcellin sings:*

**06 CALL**

Ooh

Good Lord, you are calling

Your arms reach to enfold me

Your peace flows within me

I give you my trust.

Oooh

Oh Lord you are calling

Your arms reach out to me

Your peace flows within me

I give you my trust. Repeat

Oooh

SCENE 5:

[Life in the seminary; difficulties with Latin. Eventual success]

NARRATOR: Marcellin entered the minor seminary of Lyon. He was 15. He was very much the oldest of all the seminarians. They were a bit surprised to see someone so much older than them. Marcellin at first did not know how to find his place among the little boys, but as time went by, he settled.

*A class of the Seminary. There are small boys seated, with one empty chair for Marcellin.*

 *Marcellin enters and says to the audience:*

MARCELLIN: Well, finally I'm at the Seminary. My dream can begin.

PROF PRIEST: Hello, Marcellin, welcome. Take a seat. Today we will continue the Latin classes. All repeat after me: AVE MARIA, GRATIA PLENA, DOMINUS TECUM.

SEMINARIANS: AVE MARIA, GRATIA PLENA, DOMINUS TECUM.

TEACHER-PRIEST: BENEDICTA TU IN MULIERIBUS.

SEMINARIANS: BENEDICTA TU IN MULIERIBUS.

MARCELLIN: (*Raises his hand*) I don’t understand!

TEACHER-PRIEST: But you have to learn Latin to celebrate Mass and to talk to God.

MARCELLIN: But I talk with God in my mother tongue.

TEACHER-PRIEST: Okay. You can continue to do that but you still have to study Latin.

MARCELLIN: Okay, I will try.

TEACHER-PRIEST: BENEDICTUS FRUCTUS Ventris TUI JESUS

SEMINARIANS: BENEDICTUS FRUCTUS Ventris TUI, JESUS.

MARCELLIN: I am beginning to understand! This is the Hail Mary in Latin that we have just proclaimed!

ALL: Exactly! Welcome!

**07 PROCLAIM**

Go and proclaim the gospel

Speak of the word of God

Following in Christ’s steps

Speak to the people’s hearts

Speak to the people’s hearts

Go and proclaim the gospel

Speak of the word of God

Following in Christ’s steps

Speak to the people’s hearts

Speak to the people’s hearts

Different languages -equal importance

We find it rich to be diverse

Preach the good news, the love of God

Preach the good news, the love of God.

Go and proclaim the gospel

Speak of the word of God

Following in Christ’s steps

Speak to the people’s hearts

Speak to the people’s hearts

Go and proclaim the gospel

Speak of the word of God

Following in Christ’s steps

Speak to the people’s hearts

Speak to the people’s hearts

SCENE 6

[Holidays at home and catechism for children.]

NARRATOR: Marcellin had overcome his early academic difficulties and the holidays had arrived. He met the children of his village and the surrounding area. He taught catechism in a new way, with very simple examples from daily life.

 *The children are in the room playing. Marcellin arrives and all gather around him.*

CHILDREN: Hello, Marcellin!

MARCELLIN: Hello kids! Today we'll talk about taking the gospel worldwide.

 CHILD 1: All over the world? And why ?

MARCELLIN: Look at this apple. It is almost round like Earth. We are here on this side, and we know the gospel of Jesus.

CHILD 2: Yes, we heard great things about Jesus and Mary!

MARCELLIN: From the other side of the apple, the other side of the earth, there are children like you who do not yet know Jesus.

CHILD 1: Are we going there to share our faith?

MARCELLIN: Of course! When you are a little older, you can travel to the other side of the earth and go meet them.

CHILDREN: Great!

*Marcellin left alone while the kids continue to play and he prays:*

MARCELLIN: Jesus, You know how much I want to tell the world about your love, and live like one of your disciples. Help me to recognize your signs, to find you in the other, help me to follow in your way.

**08 SHOW ME YOUR WAY**

I am ready to walk, ready to grow

Please show me your presence, your arm around my shoulder

Your hand there to guide me

I will ask of the clouds, a covering roof of hope

The forest, a home with open doors

The fields, a meeting place to gather

And the mountains, fingers that point to eternity.

Be my guide on this path marked out for me

In your footsteps

Show me God to walk beside

Walking close to others

Close to you

Be my guide on this path marked out for me

In your footsteps

Show me God to walk beside

Walking close to others

Close to you

SCENE 7

[Marcellin, a priest]

NARRATOR: Finally, Marcellin was ordained priest in Lyon and he was sent to La Valla, near his home. He immediately started to approach people and discover their most urgent needs. People began to know and trust him.

*(A group arrives on site)*

MARCELLIN Hello everyone!

ALL: Good morning, Father Champagnat!

CHILDREN: Hello, Marcellin!

A MAN of the parish: It's not good to talk like that to Father Champagnat!

MARCELLIN: Do not worry, Mr. Sardou. Children can approach me quite simply and confidently. I like it when they call me Marcellin.

A LADY: Father Champagnat, in our region there are many people who are lonely or in poor health.

Marcellin: I am ready to visit them to give them some support. And you, are you coming to help me?

ALL (including CHILDREN): Of course! Let's go !

**09 LET’S CHANGE THE WORLD**

Marcellin: Come let us go and change the world together

Come let us go and build the human family

Creating/imagine more fraternal ways to bond

All: Come let us go and change the world together

Come let us go and build the human family

Creating more fraternal ways to bond

Come on let us go

We need to be transformed

We do not go alone, Jesus goes with us

Come on let us go

We need to be transformed

We do not go alone, Jesus goes with us REPEAT ALL

SCENE 8

[Marcellin and Jean Baptiste Montagne]

NARRATOR: Marcellin became a father to all. He was loved and accepted by the people. But one day…

A PARISHIONER *(Running to the Father Marcellin*): Father, Father, a young boy is very ill, he lives far away from here!

 MARCELLIN: Show me the way and let’s go!

PARISHIONER: His name is Jean Baptiste Montagne. He's only 15 years old.

Marcellin: I do not know him. Does he come to the parish?

PARISHIONER: No, not at all. He had to work all the time, even when he was a child.

MARCELLIN: Hurry - let's go.

*They arrive at the home. Jean Baptiste's parents are in tears.*

MOM: Father Champagnat, our son is going to die. We could not do anything to fight the disease. We are too poor to send for a doctor to come to this area.

MARCELLIN: Come with me. Where is he ?

*All enter. Jean Baptiste in bed*

MARCELLIN: Jean Baptiste, I am here. It is time to prepare yourself to meet God the Father.

JEAN BAPTISTE: God? Who is God?

MARCELLIN: My friend! You do not know God?

JEAN BAPTISTE: No, not at all. I am in pain.

Marcellin takes him in his arms and John the Baptist dies.

Young people appear from different parts of the stage and sing.

**10 COME AND HELP ME**

Child 1: Please come and help me, can you not see me?

A smile or just a piece of bread,

Child 2: Can you offer a human touch?

Can you hear my voice?

Children: Please come and help me, can you not see me?

A smile or just a piece of bread,

Can you offer a human touch?

Can you hear my voice?

All: Talk to me, look at me

Remember me, I’m here

Talk to me, look at me

Remember me, I’m here

Please come and help me, can you not see me?

A smile or just a piece of bread,

Can you offer a human touch?

Can you hear my voice?

Talk to me, look at me

Remember me, I’m here

Talk to me, look at me

Remember me, I’m here

Young Boys: My name is Jean Baptiste "Infection."

Jean Baptiste "Ignorance".

Jean Baptiste "Despair" and "Violence".

Jean Baptiste "Exploitation".

Young Girl 2 My name is Jean Baptiste "Indifference."

Jean Baptiste "Loneliness".

Jean Baptiste "Insane" and "Futureless".

Jean Baptiste "Exclusion".

I’m a Montagne child

I speak for many like me

Young vulnerable, so many of us in this world.

I’m a Montagne child

I speak for many like me

Young vulnerable, so many of us in this world.

Child 1: I lost my legs because of the mines in Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam.

Girl 1: My childhood is buried in the tea fields of Bangladesh. I do not know my origins. My home is an orphanage in deep China, Ethiopia, Congo.

Child 2 I travel the roads of Europe seeking refuge.

GIRL 2 I seek shelter each night in the neighborhoods of Bogota, Bucharest, Tirana.

Child 3 I feel lost in the smoke of drugs in Moscow, in New York.

Girl 3 I look for food in the container markets Nairobi, Ouagadougou, Mostaganem.

 I am born in Bombay, Calcutta, Haiti, condemned to live on the streets.

Girl 4 My name is John, Eva, Jorge, Lilí ... but nobody looks at me and names me. I am a number.

child 4 I, Jean Baptiste, died in your arms. Can you hear me?

*The group of young people who have sung gather in front of the stage to sing in crescendo:*

I’m a Montagne child

I speak for many like me

Young vulnerable, so many of us in this world.

MARCELLIN: How many children and youth are in the same situation? Something has to be done! There is a void to be filled, too many voids to be filled.

**11 NOW / LET’S START**

Now is the time, roll up your sleeves

Time to serve others, we need more brothers

There is a call for us all, we need to hear

Hear and respond, in our good time

It’s not so loud from outside

It comes from deep within

I, Marcellin, I’ve heard it now for a while

Many times,

Of this I’m certain

Now is the time, so come

We need more hands

Now is the time, roll up your sleeves

Time to serve others, we need more brothers

Now is the time, roll up your sleeves

Now is the time, now is the time!

Now is the time, roll up your sleeves

Time to serve others, we need more brothers

Now is the time, roll up your sleeves

Now is the time, now is the time!

SCENE 9

[Marcellin thinks about forming the Marist brothers]

Marcellin approaches two young men in the parish, after Mass.

MARCELLIN: Jean Marie, Jean Baptiste, can I share my dream with you?

BOTH: We are listening, father.

MARCELLIN: You know how many children and young people of our region grow without good teachers or catechists, loveless and joyless. They need us as companions to go to them.

BROTHER 1: We can accompany them, Father.

MARCELLIN: We would live together in a house that I just bought here at La Valla, and we would prepare ourselves to become educators and catechists.

BROTHER 2: Yes, and soon we could go to the villages and open schools worldwide.

MARCELLIN: We will be the Little Brothers of Mary. Our Good Mother, the mother of Jesus, shall always accompany and protect us. And we will learn that to educate a child well we must first love them.

BROTHERS: Let the adventure begin!

 *Two young people join the group. Marcellin puts a Greek cross on them, marking them as the Marist Brothers*.

NARRATOR: Yes, the Marist Brothers were born there two hundred years ago. Now in 2017 we celebrate the creation of the Marist family at the service of youth in more than 80 countries.

**12 I COUNT UPON YOUR HANDS**

Marcellin:

I count upon your hands

I count upon your hearts

I count upon you all

All:

God counts upon our hands

God counts upon our hearts

God counts upon us all

Marcellin:

New horizons for us to discover

There is freshness of life and of joy

Of friendship, and tenderness

Brothers:

We are building a new family

Welcome hearth, and open door

Source of hope and peace

Marcellin:

I count upon your hands

I count upon your hearts

I count upon you all

All:

God counts upon our hands

God counts upon our hearts

God counts upon us all

Marcellin:

I count upon your hands

I count upon your hearts

I count upon you all

All:

God counts upon our hands

God counts upon our hearts

God counts upon us all x3

*Children arrive and the brothers approach them to teach them, care for them, play with them. They dance together.*

SCENE 10

[The mission and prayer.]

BROTHER 1: The challenge is not easy. We must dare to go further. The mountains of Pilat will be for us like Mount Hirab/Kilimanjaro. From there we will go to all the dioceses of the world.

BROTHER 2: We will be fools for the Gospel. Risking life, starting over every time, like you, Marcellin, for Jesus, with Mary.

MARCELLIN: To Jesus with Mary!

*Mary comes on the scene. The brothers with Marcellin will stop to gather around Mary and sing:*

**13. FOOLS FOR THE KINGDOM**

Yes we are fools for God’s kingdom

Men of freedom, men of faith

Yes we are fools for God’s kingdom

Brothers to children in need

Brothers to children in need

Yes we are fools for God’s kingdom

Men of freedom, men of faith

Yes we are fools for God’s kingdom

Brothers to children in need

Brothers to children in need

Marcellin: He goes before, he precedes us

The risen Christ deeply feeling

With compassion invites us;

A fire that’s burning

A fire embracing

A fire that reaches to the heavens

A holy flame, so profound

Yes we are fools for God’s kingdom

Men of freedom, men of faith

Yes we are fools for God’s kingdom

Brothers to children in need

Brothers to children in need

Yes we are fools for God’s kingdom

Men of freedom, men of faith

Yes we are fools for God’s kingdom

Brothers to children in need

Brothers to children in need

MARCELLIN: Finally the Fourvière promise is seen in new faces. You are the makers of our founding dreams. Everywhere. Rely on the Spirit!

*The villagers enter. Women bring rolls and muffins to share. A song -dance begins showing signs of the evangelizing action of the brothers in the schools and with people. Interaction with villagers and with children. The group dance is simple and continues with some instrumental music while Father Champagnat and Mary bring a fire to the center. A kind of "Pentecost moment."*

**14. THE ENTHUSIASM OF THE SPIRIT**

Brother 1: The enthusiasm of Spirit lights our prayer

It’s the ground of every action

It’s the stirring in each heart

It awaits at open doors

And inspires all things new

Sends us soaring to new heights

To touch the beams of heavens love

Brother 2: If we’re able to allow him

He will act

He’ll transform our words and deeds

Make us living hearts of love

And with Mary we will trust

And with her we’ll walk together

The world is waiting for our answer

Let us go without delay

All: Filled with passion, our hearts ablaze

We go as Marists

Filled with passion, our hearts ablaze

We serve the world REPEAT

SCENE 11

[The presence of Mary in the life and mission of the first Brothers]

It is time for memories. Time to pause. To gather from everywhere and reflect on the work of the kingdom, with little anecdotes on children and their families. Mary's presence is evoked and Father Champagnat reflects on his own experience.

MARCELLIN.- My brothers, my children, my people, come around this fire, the fire of the Spirit that you just sang about. Let us eat something together. (*They share the buns brought by women. )*

BROTHER 1: Father Marcellin, joy carries us. Everything has happened as in your founding dreams. Our small schools have changed the lives of small villages. Is it not so, friends?

*Villagers and children agree.*

BROTHER 2: There was something extraordinary. Without too much talking or emphasis, a sense of family came to settle in all homes. A kind of Marist contagion extended to the villages.

BROTHER 3: I felt like you, Mary, welcoming children into my arms so that they fall asleep in peace after so much abandonment.

MARCELLIN: I knew. I told you, Mary. With you everything is possible. Without you we are nothing. It is your work that is rooted in our hearts. Your attitudes lead us to others. You are our good mother. You always will be. My brothers, remember the first time I offered to welcome Mary among us like the disciples at Pentecost. Come on, we will explain it all.

*Marcellin, Mary and the people stand aside to allow the brothers to sing*.

**15. SHE CAME TO US**

Marist Brother 1: She came to us, she was asking for shelter,

She walked along with Jean. She became Mother.

 Another Jean came to call. A young Montagne is at the door.

OUR MOTHER IS HERE.

Our mother welcomes us.

Our mother listens with such deep tenderness.

SHE LIKE GOD holds us in UNCONDITIONAL LOVE.

SHE sees us with LOVE ALONE.

Marist Brother 2 Welcome to Mary, come with your presence.

We’ll make her place in our midst once again.

She comes with all those who have been crucified.

She invites us to hope, and to help bring about freedom for them, the resurrection.

Marist Brothers 1 and 2: She comes to walk beside us, we share the Spirit’s fire.

We join in prayer and in action.

To bear witness and go out to the world.

All brothers: OUR MOTHER is here.

Our mother welcomes us.

Our mother listens with such deep tenderness.

SHE LIKE GOD holds us in UNCONDITIONAL LOVE.

SHE sees us with LOVE ALONE.

OUR MOTHER is here.

Our mother welcomes us.

Our mother listens with such deep tenderness.

SHE LIKE GOD holds us in UNCONDITIONAL LOVE.

SHE sees us with LOVE ALONE.

*Mary stand up to invite everyone to join the group of brothers. There is a festive dance. Possibility of dancing with the symbols of Bethlehem, Calvary and the Eucharist. Moment of testimony of Mary among the brothers in person.*

 MARY: My children, you know I am not a woman of many words. I'd rather be with you, accompany you, walk the path to transform the world. I taught Jesus to do the same. The Good News of God must be shared. It's what I did with my cousin Elizabeth and her family. My little Jesus was for everyone, not only for Joseph and for me. Go to announce the joy of the Gospel, the God of tenderness that has inspired us all. Be my Marists, be my little brothers. Be the older brothers of all the Montagnes of the world. That way I can sing ...

**16. YOU ARE MY CHILDREN**

Mary: YOU ARE MY CHILDREN.

HERE AM I, YOUR MOTHER.

I WELCOME YOU (Bethlehem).

I OFFER LOVE (the cross).

YOU ARE MY CHILDREN.

HERE AM I YOUR MOTHER.

HERE IS MY SON,

THE BREAD OF LIFE (Eucharist).

Marist brothers and people:

WE ARE YOUR CHILDREN.

HERE YOU ARE, OUR MOTHER.

YOU WELCOME US (Bethlehem).

YOU OFFER LOVE (the cross).

WE ARE YOUR CHILDREN.

HERE YOU ARE, OUR MOTHER.

HERE IS YOUR SON,

THE BREAD OF LIFE (Eucharist)

I come from Bethlehem, the house of bread.

I raised my son, to be wheat for the world.

Be leaven so the bread can rise

An offering for the hungry soul.

The upper room an open place for all,

The meal of friendship is the Eucharist.

Jesus, my Son is given bread,

Poured out wine, a feast divine!

Musical break

Marist Brothers and people:

WE ARE YOUR CHILDREN.

HERE YOU ARE, OUR MOTHER.

YOU WELCOME US (Bethlehem).

YOU OFFER LOVE (the cross).

WE ARE YOUR CHILDREN.

HERE YOU ARE, OUR MOTHER.

HERE IS YOUR SON,

THE BREAD OF LIFE (Eucharist)

I come to Calvary, to be a sign.

The price paid dearly for the Truth of love.

You are invited to declare;

persecution do not fear!.

Mary: YOU ARE MY CHILDREN.

HERE AM I, YOUR MOTHER.

I WELCOME YOU (Bethlehem).

I OFFER LOVE (the cross).

YOU ARE MY CHILDREN.

HERE AM I YOUR MOTHER.

HERE IS MY SON,

THE BREAD OF LIFE (Eucharist).

**SCENE 12**

[Final scene. Invitation to live the bicentennial.]

 NARRAT0R: The dream of the first Marist Founders, men and women, fathers, brothers and sisters, continue to change the world. You yourselves are now here. Here 200 years of life are continually renewed. 200 years of history with its ups and downs. 200 years of struggle for the Rights of Children, in one way or another. 2017 invites us to open our hearts to a third century of being Marist.

BROTHER: From the simplicity of our origins, to the simplicity and spiritual wealth of our present.

A MAN OF VILLAGE: For a Future Church with a Marial face.

A WOMAN: For a Church of the Apron, a Church of Jesus with Mary.

BOY: For a Church that made children the center of its mission.

GIRL: As Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven belongs to those who know how to live as a child, a child of God."

 ANOTHER BROTHER: Father Marcellin, thank you. YOU have shown us all how to live a life of giving, a life totally available to the Gospel.

ALL: Thank you, Marcellin!

*They all wear aprons and sing with Marcellin and Mary in the middle.*

**17. IT’S YOUR VOICE**

It’s your voice that we invite to lead us,

Marcellin show us the way ahead

Your life gives us hope and inspiration

To take your dream and live it, as your new Champagnats

To take your dream and live it, as your new Champagnats

Always at their side we walk with children

With them making sure their rights are guarded

Making sure their future looks more bright

For two hundred years you have inspired us

Now begin the future years to come

Let us live as Marists with much faithfulness

Joined as brothers and sisters we are one!

It’s your voice that we invite to lead us,

Marcellin show us the way ahead

Your life gives us hope and inspiration

To take your dream and live it, as your new Champagnats

To take your dream and live it, as your new Champagnats