### “Our Good Mother, You have done everything for us”

**Thanksgiving for our Marist presence**

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.

**Song: Hail Mary, Gentle Woman**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women   
and blest is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners now  
and at the hour of death. Amen.  
  
Refrain  
Gentle woman, quiet light,  
morning star, so strong and bright,  
gentle Mother, peaceful dove,  
teach us wisdom; teach us love.  
  
1. You were chosen by the Father;  
you were chosen for the Son.  
You were chosen from all women  
and for woman, shining one.  
  
2. Blessed are you among women,  
blest in turn all women, too.  
Blessed they with peaceful spirits.  
Blessed they with gentle hearts.

1. We pray for our Marist family, brothers and laity, in **Europe** may they advance confidently on the path of unity, as a leaven of harmony for the continent. Watch over young people: the hope of the future, may they respond with generosity to the call of Jesus. Watch over the leaders of nations: may they be committed to building a common house which respects the dignity and rights of every person.

* **Intention – 3 Hail Marys ...**

1. We pray for our Marist family, brothers and laity, in **Oceania** that they may offer the word of the Living Word to their people. Guide them across all dark and stormy seas that they may give to the people the peace and light prepared in Christ who calmed the sea.
2. We pray for our Marist Family, brothers and laity, in **Africa** that their presence be a sign of reconciliation and justice in a continent so marked by wars, poverty and exploitation. Help them to find adequate ways and means to promote reconciliation, justice and peace.
3. We pray for our Marist family and laity, in **America** witnessing with courage that Jesus Christ is the way of conversion, communion and solidarity in America and may they be living witnesses to love, justice and solidarity; make them schools of respect, forgiveness and mutual help.
4. We pray for our Marist Family, brothers and laity, in **Asia** that the contemplation and silence attitudes help them to contemplate the face of Christ and find the most suitable way to announce Him in full fidelity to the Gospel to the people of that vast continent so rich in culture and ancient forms of spirituality.

Filled with the joy of a renewed purpose, with our brothers and sisters we re-affirm the growing convictions that express the core of Marist Spiritual tradition:

* Our mission, founded on the experience of being profoundly loved by Jesus, is to make him known and loved.
* Mary never fails to accompany us in our pilgrimage of faith, both when we grow in fidelity and when we wander in doubt.
* God constantly renews the gift of Marist martyrs and saints to show us new horizons of passionate commitment to Jesus Christ his Gospel.
* Marist of Africa, America, Asia, Europe and Oceania are a marvellous gift to one another and a meaningful way of Mary being present in our world today.
* Communities and families inspired by Marist spirituality become leaven that transforms the dough of our societies in a humble and affective way.
* The person and the spirituality of Marcellin Champagnat fill with meaning and purpose the lives of many Brothers and Lay Marist today and powerfully awaken new ways of being Marist.

**PRAYER FOR MARIST FAMILY**

Dear God, we pray for all our Marist Family members, Brothers and laity

Who are generously serving the church; and the Marist presence throughout our world.

Bless them in the difficulties;

Enable them to be presence of God, as Mary did, to all they are evangelizing.

May they nurture your spirit in all peoples; and encourage them to find God in the richness their ministries.

Graciously bless those preparing to go on mission; and especially those on special “Ad Gentes” projects.

We pray in Jesus’ name our brother.

Amem!