

# **REDISCOVERING the original passion and RE-APPRECIATE our vocation as Marists.**



The following prayer is thought in four moments: **Awakening, Listening, Responding and Walking**. These moments of encounter will help us to recognize God's presence in our lives, what He is asking of us, to rediscover and appreciate our vocation as brothers.

# WAKE UP TO EMBRACE LIFE AND VOCATION AS A SIGN OF GOD'S LOVE

"Before I formed you in your mother's womb, I knew you; before you were born, I consecrated you, and appointed you to be a prophet to the nations." **Jeremiah 1:5.**

**PREPARE AMBIENTATION:** Set up a place for your prayer time and in the center light a *candle*. Write on a large piece of paper the word "AWAKEN" and place it in the middle of the prayer space. This light represents the presence of God who is always with us and who illuminates this moment.

**INITIAL MOTIVATION:** The following prayer is centered on AWAKENING, understanding our life as VOCATION: to life, to love, to service. Listen to Jon Carlo's "I Will Be With You" as motivation to start your prayer:

*Beloved you do not know  
how glad I am that you are here.*

*I wanted to feel you  
to be able to have you and be close to you  
I know where you came from  
And the route of your path  
Your sufferings and your tears  
They have touched my heart*

*Wherever you go I will go with you  
When you get up I'll be there  
When you look for me you will find me  
I will not abandon you... you can count on me.*

*I know where you came from  
And the route of your path  
your sufferings and your tears  
have touched my heart.*

*Wherever you go I will go with you...*

*If you knew your value and what you mean to me  
The great love I have for you  
Surely you would stop looking for me outside of me.  
Spread your wings and fly to me  
Wherever you go I will go with you...*

*(From your mother's womb, He already loved you. From the moment your first cry came, He was there. He is with you and will never leave you. He will always be with you)*

*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TaYuG59IVWM>*

**RULE OF LIFE N°1:** "BROTHER, set out and listen to Jesus who says to each one of us "Come and see" (Jn 1:39). Your call to fraternity is a mystery. Accept it as a gift. Live each day with an itinerant attitude, and you will discover that the road transforms your way of seeing and understanding. Stay, live with the Lord, let yourself be accompanied by the Master. And, like those first disciples, never forget the moment when Jesus touched your heart and awakened your most authentic and profound identity. His first disciples discovered this "Come and see" as a genuine call from the Master. In response they "went and saw where he lived and stayed with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon" (Jn 1:39).

### **BIBLICAL ILLUMINATION: First Letter of John 4, 7 - 21**

"My beloved, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love has not known God, for God is love. Look how God's love was manifested among us: God sent his only Son into this world so that we might have life through him. In this is love; it is not that we loved God, but that he first loved us and sent his Son as a victim for our sins. Beloved, if God loved us in this way, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God, but if we love one another, God is among us and his love bears all its fruit among us. And how do we know that we abide in God and he abides in us? Because he has communicated his Spirit to us. But we have also seen, and we declare, that the Father sent his Son as Savior of the world. Whoever acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him and he in God. For our part, we have known God's love for us, and we have believed in him. God is love: he who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him. When love reaches its perfection in us, we look with confidence to the day of judgment, because we are already in this world as He is. In love there is no fear. Perfect love casts out fear, for there is fear where there is punishment. He who fears does not know perfect love. Let us love, then, as he first loved us. If one says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar. If he does not love his brother, whom he sees, he cannot love God, whom he does not see. For this is the commandment we received from him: he who loves God, let him love his brother also." **Word of God.**

## **REFLECTION:**

- Our life story is also the story of God's great love for each of his sons and daughters. Many times, we are not able to recognize the presence of God the Father-Mother who is constantly at our side living each of the experiences that build our existence. We tend to call upon God when tragedy or disappointment are present in our lives, we remember Him when we need His help in different situations, but we often forget Him when happiness embellishes our existence.
- We are invited to *awaken* the awareness of God's constant presence in our lives, which becomes a reality in our brothers and sisters, in the people around us. God loves us and is always with us.

## **PERSONAL MEDITATION. GUIDING QUESTIONS.**

*You can play soft music that invites to meditation...*

In a moment of silence he returns to the reading of the letter of St. John and meditates with these questions:

1. Take a brief look at your life, your vocational history and recognize God's presence in it.
2. In what moments have you felt loved by God?
3. How do I accept the invitation to love "my brother"?

## **COMMUNITY PRAYER:**

### **WORSHIP AND TRUST**

Do not worry about life's difficulties,  
for its ups and downs, for its disappointments,  
for its more or less bleak future.

Desire what God desires.

Offer him in the midst of concerns and difficulties  
the sacrifice of your simple soul that, in spite of everything,  
accepts the designs of his providence.

It doesn't matter that you consider yourself frustrated,  
if God considers you fully realized; at his pleasure.

Surrender with blind trust in this God who wants you for Himself.  
And that he will reach you, even if you never see him.

Think of yourself as being in their hands,  
more strongly sustained,  
when you are at your lowest and saddest.

Live happily. I beg you. Live in peace.  
Let nothing disturb you.  
May nothing be able to take away your peace.  
Nor psychic fatigue. Nor your moral failures.

Make it emerge, and always keep it on your face,  
a sweet smile, a reflection of that which the Lord  
continually directs you.

And in the bottom of your soul place, before anything else,  
as a source of energy and criterion of truth,  
everything that fills you with the peace of God.

Remember: Everything that represses and worries you is false.  
I assure you in the name of the laws of life.  
and of God's promises.  
Therefore, when you feel sad, sad,  
worship and trust.

(*Teilhard de Chardin, sj.* )

**SONG:** Let us place in the hands of Mary, our Good Mother and Ordinary Resource this day, the people with whom we are going to relate and, like her, let us be a living image of the Gospel.

### **Good Mother (Kairos)**

Good mother I'm here, I want to pray I want to talk to you  
You have been a good mother with simplicity and faithful believer.  
In your lap I want to be close to you  
as a little one I will give you my whole being accept it

### ***Good Mother, Our Good Mother (2 times).***

Good mother, I see in you, a woman full of God.  
Good mother by faith you know how to live in the dark  
Watch your children walk in search of light  
Look at the anguish and pain  
Give us your acogenous faith.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QoIemJT-9NU>

### **VOCATIONAL PRAYER:**

Holy Father, You who call those You love to follow Your Son Jesus Christ in the same way of life and mission, send Your Holy Spirit to AWAKEN the response in the hearts of those called to the Marist mission, receive our thanksgiving for the vocation You have given us and hear our prayer for all those who seek to know Your ways in life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## **LISTEN TO WELCOME THE YES! OF MARY, MOTHER AND DISCIPLE OF JESUS.**

*Mary answered, "I am the handmaid of the Lord, let what you have said to me be fulfilled in me."  
(Lk. 1:38).*

**PREVIOUS AMBIENTATION:** Prepare an open Bible and a picture of Mary in the place of prayer. Write on a large piece of paper the word "LISTEN" to remind us of the importance of being attentive to what God tells us daily in His Word.

**INITIAL MOTIVATION: Mary listening:** Where does Mary's gesture of going to her relative Elizabeth come from? From a word of the angel of God: "Your kinswoman Elizabeth also conceived a son in spite of her old age" (Lk. 1:36)... (Lk. 1:36). Mary knows how to listen to God. Attention: it is not a simple superficial "hearing", but it is "listening", an act of attention, of acceptance, of availability to God. It is not the distracted way in which we place ourselves before the Lord or before others: we hear the words, but we do not really listen. Mary is attentive to God, she listens to God



**(Pope Francis).**

### **Canto de la Salve (Marian song)**

**RULE OF LIFE #8:** BROTHER, contemplate Mary, the first disciple of Jesus, as an inspiration for your consecrated journey; a journey of love for God and service to your neighbor. Like Mary, recognize your doubts and fears. Discuss them with the Lord:

"How will it be" (Lk 1:34); "Do not be afraid, for the Lord is with you" (Lk 1:30). Her motherly presence will help you to say "yes" to God's plan: "Here is the handmaid of the Lord" (Lk 1:38). Mary welcomed and lived to the full the mystery of God's love, which became flesh (cf. Jn 1:14). She will accompany you in following the Lord closely, even to the cross.

### **BIBLICAL ILLUMINATION: Gospel of Luke 1, 26-38.**

At that time, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee, called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man of the seed of David, named Joseph. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel came to her and said, "Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord is with you. When she heard these words, she was greatly troubled and wondered what such a greeting meant. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. You will conceive and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus; he will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. Mary then said to the angel, "How can this be, since I remain a virgin?" The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will descend upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the Holy One who is to be born of you will be called the Son of God. Behold your kinswoman Elizabeth, who, in spite of her old age, has conceived a son, and she who was called barren is already in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible with God". Mary answered, "I am the handmaid of the Lord, let what you have said to me be fulfilled in me". And the angel departed from her presence. **Word of the Lord.**

### **REFLECTION:**

- Mary also listens to the facts, that is, she reads the events of her life, she is attentive to the concrete reality and does not stop at the surface, but goes deep down to grasp the meaning. The relative Elizabeth, who is already old, is expecting a child: this is the fact. But Mary is attentive to the meaning, she knows how to understand it: "for nothing is impossible with God" (Lk. 1:37).
- This is also true in our life: listening to God who speaks to us, and also listening to daily reality, attentive to people, to events, because the Lord is at the door of our life and knocks in many ways, he puts signs on our path; it is in us the ability to see them. Mary is the mother of listening, attentive listening to God and also attentive listening to the events of life.

## **PERSONAL MEDITATION:**

*You can play soft music that invites to meditation...*

In a moment of silence and following the example of our Good Mother, let us allow ourselves to listen to what God wants to express to us from his Gospel and from the reality we are living.

## **COMMUNITY PRAYER:**

- Mary, woman of listening, open our ears; make us listen to the Word of your Son Jesus among the thousand words of this world; make us listen to the reality in which we live, to each person we meet, especially those who are poor, needy, in difficulty.  
**(Ave Maria)**
- Mary, woman of decision, enlighten our minds and hearts, so that we may know how to obey the Word of your Son Jesus, without hesitation; give us the courage to decide, not to let ourselves be dragged along so that others may guide our lives.  
**(Ave Maria)**
- Mary, woman of action, make our hands and feet move "without delay" towards others, to bring the charity and love of your Son Jesus, to bring, like you, the light of the Gospel to the world.  
**(Ave Maria)**
- Other prayers can be added spontaneously

**A Marian hymn.**

## **VOCATIONAL PRAYER:**

God, Father and Shepherd of all men and women, you desire that today there be no lack of men and women of faith who consecrate their lives to the service of the Gospel and the care of the Church. May your Holy Spirit enlighten the hearts and strengthen the wills of your faithful, so that, welcoming your call, they may be attentive to the emerging needs of our time. Mary, Mother of vocations, pray for us. **Amen.**

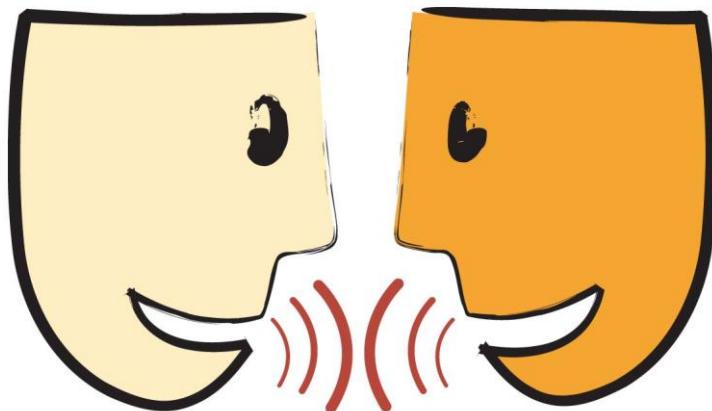
## **RESPOND**

### **WELCOME THE CALL AND RESPONSE OF MARCELINO CHAMPAGNAT**

*"My brothers and sisters, God calls the religious state to work for the education of youth."  
Champagnat's spiritual testament.*

**PRE-PRAYER SETTING:** Prepare as a setting for the prayer, images of our social reality; Write on a large piece of paper the word "RESPOND" and place it in the middle of the place of prayer.

**INITIAL MOTIVATION:** We Marists of Champagnat want to continue our journey of following Jesus in Mary's way. For this reason, in this third community prayer we want to **RESPOND** vividly to the Lord's call to service. Mary served her relative Elizabeth in haste, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, Marcellin attended to the young Montagne, now it is up to us to serve our brothers and sisters in community, our families and especially the children and young people who walk with us in our works and in our neighborhoods. In the footsteps of Champagnat, we will be men and women who will spread the love of service and inspire many young people. Let us pray together and in communion.



**COMMUNITY OFFERING: Psalm 33**

**R./Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord.**

I bless the Lord at all times  
His praise is always in my mouth;  
my soul glories in the Lord:  
that the humble may hear it and rejoice.

Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord,

Let us exalt his name together.  
I consulted the Lord, and he answered me,  
freed me from all my anxieties.

Behold it, and you will be radiant,  
your face shall not be ashamed.  
If the afflicted call upon the Lord, he hears them  
and saves him from his anguish.  
Taste and see how good the Lord is,  
Blessed is he who embraces it.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit...

### **MARIST TEXT ILLUMINATION: From the book Water from the Rock (8,9,10).**

Marcellin also had a deep awareness of the love of Jesus and Mary for others. This inspired in him an apostolic passion. And he dedicated his life to sharing this love. In Marcellin's encounter with the dying young man Jean-Baptiste Montagne, we see how impressed he was to contemplate a young man who was in the last moments of his life and did not know God's love for him.

This episode was for Marcellin a call from God. His compassion immediately moved him to put into practice his founding intuition: We need brothers! Four months after his ordination to the priesthood, this experience highlighted the pressing needs of young people and confirmed the idea of responding to them through a group of dedicated evangelizers. They would bring the good news of Jesus to those on the margins of the Church and society.

Marcellin responded with dedication and in practical and effective ways to the needs he saw around him. That response was also shaped by the Project shared by the first Marists, who dreamed of a new way of being Church, as they had promised at Fourvière. With Jean-Claude Colin, Jeanne-Marie Chavoin and the other 'Marist founders', he shared the conviction that Mary had brought them together to respond to the needs of post-revolutionary France.

## **PERSONAL MEDITATION. GUIDING QUESTIONS...**

*You can play soft music that invites to meditation...*

1. What emotion comes to me after contemplating the images of social reality?  
What does it invite me to?
2. How do I experience service in my community/home?
3. Where do I want to focus my strengths to better respond and serve?

## **SONG: ESTO QUE SOY ESO TE DOY - EDUARDO MEANA.**

Sometimes I ask you "why me?"  
And you only answer me "because I want to".  
It is a great mystery that you call us  
So, just as we are, to meet you

Then I rediscover a truth  
My life, our life is your treasure  
It is then just a matter of offering you  
with all our love, this that we are.

*What shall I give you? What shall we give you?  
If everything, everything, is your gift!  
I will offer you, we will offer you  
This that we are... This that I am, that I give you!*

This that I am, this is what I give you  
This is what we are, this is what we give you  
You do not despise our humble life  
It's all about putting everything in your hands

Here goes my work and my faith  
My dunks, my lows and my dreams  
And all the people you gave me  
From my heart I offer them to you.

I saw so many people on a sunny Sunday  
I was moved by the beating of so many lives.  
And I guessed your gigantic embrace

And I know you were getting their stories.

That's why your altar is full of wine and bread  
They are a sign and homage to life  
Mystery of offering and receiving us  
Humanity that Christ divinizes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQ93T9nmEqE>

### **COMMUNITY INTENSIONS: R/Hear our prayer, O Lord.**

- We ask you, Father, that from the experience of the apostolate in the Marist works of the world, many lay people and brothers may know Christ so that they may love him more and follow him with generosity **R/**.
- We ask you, Father, to call to the Marist Community, young people eager to be with Christ and to bring him with their witness wherever it is necessary **R/**.
- We ask you, Father, for fidelity and trust in this way, this truth and this life that we have chosen, to follow in your footsteps even in the moments of greatest confusion for us and for the whole Church. **R/**.
- We ask you Father, so that from our personal and community life witness, we may awaken in young people the question about the Society of Jesus and its mission **R/**.
- **Free intentions...**

**VOCATIONAL PRAYER:** Lord, who ask your followers to live in love and unity so that the world may believe in you, give us the grace of true conversion and the strength to be your witnesses among the people. Mary, you who are our Good Mother and our First Superior, hear the supplications we address to you in the same words of your servant Marcellin Champagnat: "This work is yours; you have gathered us together, in spite of the contradictions of the world, to procure the glory of your divine Son; if you do not help us, we will perish; we will be extinguished like a lamp without oil. But if this work perishes, it is not our work that perishes, it is yours. You have done everything among us, we count, then, on you, on your powerful help and we will always count on it". Intercede, Mother of Goodness, before your Son so that he may send workers to his harvest, numerous and holy religious and lay vocations to our Marist Family **Amen.**

# WALK

## TO ACCEPT THE CALL OF JESUS THE TEACHER

*"Tying up their boats, they left everything and followed him" (Luke 5:11).*

**PREVIOUS AMBIENTATION:** Prepare some footprints and the image of Jesus of Nazareth and write on a large piece of paper the word "WALK" and place it in the middle of the prayer space.

### **INITIAL MOTIVATION: YOUR WAY: Fr. Cristobal Fones, SJ.**

Jesus, as you contemplate in your life  
the way you treat others  
I let myself be questioned by your tenderness,  
your way of loving moves us to love;  
your treatment is like crystal clear water  
that cleans and accompanies the walk.

*Jesus, teach me your way  
to make the other feel more human,  
may your footsteps be my footsteps;  
my way of proceeding.*

Jesus, make me feel with your feelings,  
look with your gaze, engage my action,  
donate myself to death for the kingdom,  
defend life to the cross,  
to love each one as a friend,  
and in the darkness carry your light.

Jesus, I want to be compassionate to those who suffer,  
seeking justice, sharing our faith,  
to find true harmony  
between what I believe and what I want to be,  
my eyes be a source of joy,  
that embraces your way of being.

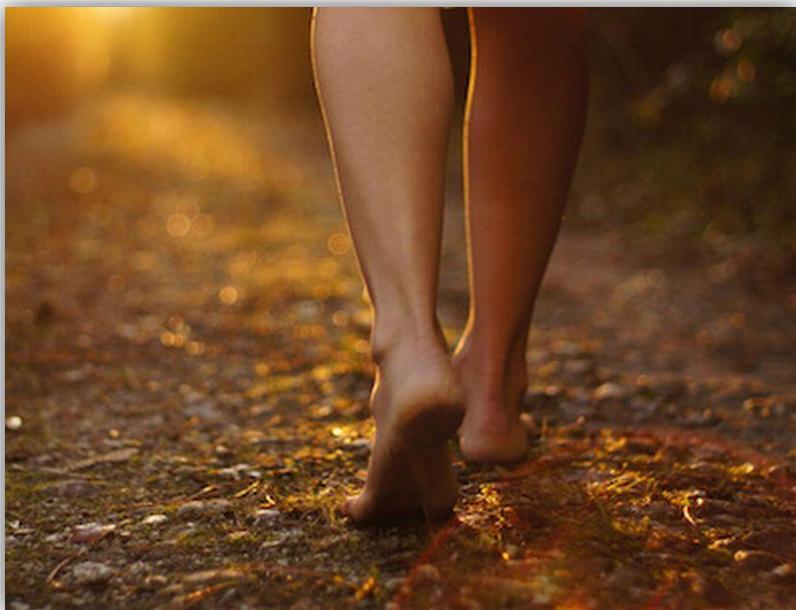
I would like to know you, Jesus, just as you are.  
Your image on me is what will transform  
my heart in one like yours  
that goes out of itself to give;  
capable of loving the Father and the brethren,  
serving the kingdom in freedom.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5wXCLdnOQj4>

### **BIBLICAL ILLUMINATION: From the Gospel of Luke 5:16-21.**

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and according to his custom he entered the synagogue one Sabbath and stood up to do the reading. The book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. He opened it and came upon the text that says: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." He closed it, handed it to the clerk, and sat down. The whole synagogue had their eyes fixed on him. And he began, saying to them, "Today this day is fulfilled."

**Word of the Lord / Glory to you Lord Jesus.**



### **REFLECTION: SYNODALITY AND SPIRITUALITY (Félix Placer Ugarte, theologian).**

The Church's path is traced out, according to the Pastoral Constitution of Vatican II, among "the joys and the hopes, the sorrows and the anxieties, especially of the poor and of those who suffer". It is its road map for fulfilling its

mission in going out into the world in which it lives and to which it is sent, "anointed" by the Spirit, like Jesus of Nazareth, in order to bring "good news to the poor, freedom to the captives and the oppressed..." (Lk 4:18). Only by following this direction will he be faithful to the one who came to bring about the most profound liberation of humanity and the fullness of all creation. From here the meaning of synodality is born and

becomes concrete, that is, of their "walking together", of their common journey, moved by the Spirit to the service of humanity in solidarity.

This "new synodality" inspired by the Spirit, which beats in so many spiritualities, is dialogical, supportive, open, shared and liberating. It starts, as the Pope himself insists, "from the grassroots, from the people, from the problems of everyday life". For this reason, synodal spirituality must listen to other spiritualities that are lived on the peripheries of today's world; to those that are widespread in other cultures, peoples and religions; to those that offer and practice a profound mystical sense, such as the Eastern spiritualities. But not to include them in their dogmas and doctrines, but to learn from them and from their wisdom, respecting their differences and plurality.

<https://www.feadulta.com/es/buscadoravanzado/item/12977-sinodalidad-y-espiritualidad.html>

## PERSONAL MEDITATION. GUIDING QUESTIONS...

*You can play soft music that invites to meditation...*

1. What does it mean to you to be a disciple of the Lord?
2. Which Gospel passage or which images of Jesus move you today to identify with Him and His way of being?
3. With Jesus' liberating proposal, what do I feel called to?

## COMMUNITY PRAYER: CREO (Brothers of the Marist Interprovincial Novitiate La Valla-2017)

**I BELIEVE** in God who speaks to us in today's world.

I think we can answer you.

**I BELIEVE** that the Spirit of Jesus  
and opens up paths for us through something so simple  
as a community of brothers and sisters in availability,  
listening and searching.

**I BELIEVE** in the Holy Spirit,  
that speaks to us in contemplation  
and in our experiences.

**I BELIEVE** in God the Father,  
that is revealed in the most needy of our society;  
and in Jesus, who calls us to show our faith in our actions.

**I BELIEVE** in universal communion  
as a reflection of a living Christ.

**I BELIEVE** in the presence of the Holy Spirit among us.

**I BELIEVE** that, like Maristas,  
with the help of Maria,  
we can build a more fraternal world.

**I BELIEVE** in the Spirit,  
as the driving force behind this project.  
It's worth betting it all.

It makes sense to be a brother... to be a Marist.

**I BELIEVE** in the culture of encounter.

**I BELIEVE** in the experience of simplicity  
as a means to create the fraternity that unites us to God.

**I BELIEVE** in the brother's vocation  
and of the lay Marist lived in fraternity.

**I BELIEVE** in universal love.

**I BELIEVE** there are no distances or borders  
when we feel that we are BROTHERS among BROTHERS.

**I BELIEVE** it will be a challenging time,  
to be born and to set out on our journey with the help of the Spirit.  
**I BELIEVE** that it is possible to live the Marist charism in today's world.

**I BELIEVE** in the dream of Marcellin Champagnat...  
it was he who dreamed us BROTHERS.

### **VOCATIONAL PRAYER (Pope Francis):**

Father of mercy, who gave your Son for our salvation and sustain us continually with the gifts of your Spirit, grant us living Christian communities, fervent and joyful, that they may be sources of fraternal life and awaken in young people a desire to consecrate themselves to you and to evangelization. Give them wisdom for the necessary discernment so that in everything the greatness of your merciful love may shine forth. May Mary, Mother and educator of Jesus, intercede for each of the Christian communities, so that, made fruitful by the Holy Spirit, they may be a source of authentic vocations at the service of God's holy people. Amen.