



# Society of Mary

THE MARISTS IN THE UNITED STATES

Discernment as  
Contemplation in Action

2020 Calendar



Mary of Nazareth, the first disciple of the Lord and Mother of the Church, is the heart of our identity as Marists. This remarkable woman of faith has called us to this way of life. We believe that we have been called by a “gracious choice” into the family of Mary. It is her work that we do and so we commit ourselves to think, judge, feel and act as she did.

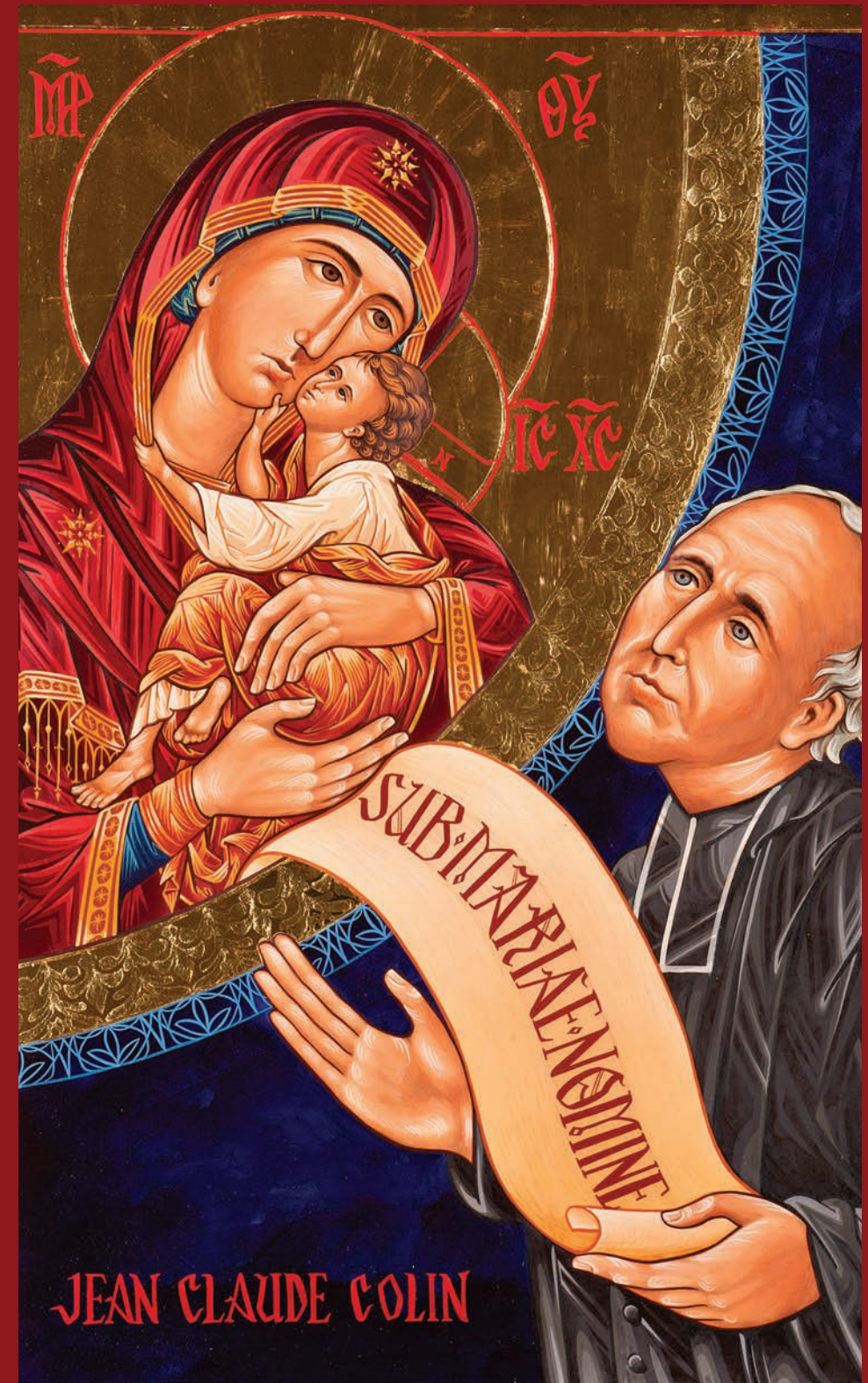
These qualities mark us as Marists: mercy and compassion, availability, welcome and hospitality, simplicity manifest in everyday ordinariness and a common touch. We are self-effacing apostles who demonstrate a spirit of joy and respect for others; we are called to be humble and hidden and unknown in the world.

Our spirituality, which is both mystical and practical, responds to the reality and circumstances of today’s world. Jean-Claude Colin, acting on what he believed to be Mary’s desire, encouraged us to establish a Marian Church, a Church with the heart of a mother beating at its center.

At our best, we are instruments of God’s mercy working to help others taste the boundless love of the Lord, especially those who find themselves on the margins. As Marists, we seek to go where the Church is not. We should enable all with whom we come into contact to experience the gift of reconciliation as well as peace of heart and mind.

Mary is the icon of God’s Spirit. As her fellow disciples, we pray that with God’s grace we become the same.

Statement of Identity, US Province of the Marists  
Assembly and Chapter of June 2013







# Discernment as Contemplation in Action

The 2017 Marist General Chapter, a gathering of Marists from around the world every eight years, placed deep prayer in this contemplative sense at the heart of *mission* for Marists. The Catholic understanding of mission flows out of the *Mission of God* among us, especially the *Missioning of Jesus*, which refers to His being sent by the Father, as Jesus mentions frequently in the Gospels. This mystery of the Mission of Jesus is rooted deeply in the **Incarnation**, Jesus among us as both God and Human. Jesus, in turn, tells us that “he will not leave us orphans but will send us the Spirit” whose own Mission is to remind us of all that Jesus taught. Therefore, *mission* is first the action of God among us, and our mission is only authentic when it is exercised in the God “in whom we live and move and have our being.” (Acts 17:28) It begins and ends as the grace of God. We can live out our ministry only as it comes from the grace of God in the light of the mystery of God. Prayer, contemplation, and dwelling in the mystery of God must somehow pour out into our ministries if they are not to become secularized activities of “good works” rather than the work of God among us in grace. Ideally, contemplation, mission, and ministry are one. the Gospels shows all this concretely in the life of Jesus.

Discernment is what unites all this. The world of mystery, faith, and prayer has to “hit the ground” in action. Decisions must be made using the best processes available but always in the context of discernment. Our human decision-making processes have to be forged, tempered, and shaped by faith in the will of God for the world, ‘not just by our own best strategic analysis’ using only secular methods of decision-making. When ‘prayer meets action’, transformation of even the best secular decision-making methods help to shape our lives of prayer into actions that will deepen our contemplative Marist Way, whether we be vowed or lay Marists. We have to leave space for the Spirit in our

understanding and practice of mission in a manner that infuses our decisions with the gifts and fruits of the Spirit as we “become Mary” for the Church and the world. Without the Spirit’s prompting, we can gradually grow unconsciously “secularized” in our efforts to serve the Church. Therefore, discernment is inseparable from contemplation. It is where and how our contemplation truly becomes “the energy source, the mystical heart of Marist mission” as the General Chapter expresses it. (2017 General Chapter, 30) This is how the clarity of Colin’s vision of “thinking, judging, feeling, and acting as Mary” becomes a reality in our spiritual lives as well as in our everyday life and ministry - as individuals and as a group. As Mary, we too become more like “icons” of the Holy Spirit. We bring Mary as the Icon of the Spirit into the world through our pursuit of contemplation, “a knowledge of God impregnated with love.” (St. Gregory the Great)

In our *Marist Constitutions*, we read:

*“When they make profession, Marists declare before the Church and one another their intention to live out their baptism more fully. They choose to follow Christ more closely by a radical commitment to the spirit of the Beatitudes in a community that has one heart and one mind.”* (Constitutions 93) *Our Founder, Fr. Colin, put it this way: “The Society began like the Church, so we must be like the apostles and those who joined them and were already numerous. One heart and one soul.”* (A Founder Speaks)

*For Marists, discernment, both on an individual as well as on a group level, has to be a hallmark of the way in which we operate ... Marists need to commit, as individuals and as a community, to “entering into a dialogue with God after establishing a right relationship so that in that mutual sharing and trust, an answer emerges.”*

(The Gift of Spiritual Intimacy, Novalis Books)

- Brian Cummings, SM, Director, Pa Maria Marist Spirituality Centre, Wellington, New Zealand

- Ted Keating, SM





Prayer does not remove one from the world but allows one to enter it more deeply, . . . it is “an act of trust in God (154) instead of in one’s own strength and knowledge, as it builds faith that God will call us to act where we are needed, instead of where we want to act.”

Pope Francis, *Gaudete et Exsultate*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God New Year's Day			
			1	2	3	4
Epiphany of The Lord					Acceptance of Missions of Oceania, 1836 Mass and Prayers for the Society of Mary	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
The Baptism of The Lord						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day			St. Marianne Cope	St. Francis de Sales Secondary Patron of the Society of Mary	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary Patron of the Society of Mary				
26	27	28	29	30	31	

# January 2020

## DECEMBER 2019

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## FEBRUARY 2020

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Mary's presence in the Church is not seen as a remote, nebulous, contemplative one, but rather Mary is in the Church with a particular mission: she is the gentle and merciful face of Church, the open and welcoming door of the sheep-fold...She extends the welcome of a merciful God, of a merciful welcoming community of disciples. ... Michaël Fitzgerald, SM, "A Marian Consciousness" in *Maristica, Textus et Studia*, 5, 46.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
Feast of the Presentation of The Lord Marists Renew Their Vows						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
					St. Valentine's Day	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Presidents' Day					
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
			Ash Wednesday		Approbation of Fr. Colin's Constitutions, 1873 Mass and Prayers for the Society of Mary	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

# February 2020

JANUARY 2020

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MARCH 2020

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The dimensions of contemplation and action go together because “we can only enter the heart of God through the wounds of Christ, and we know that Christ is wounded in the hungry, the uneducated, the discarded, the old, the sick, the imprisoned, in all the vulnerable human flesh.”

Pope Francis, Message to the President of the World Executive Council of Christian Life Communities, July 2018



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
First Sunday of Lent						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Second Sunday of Lent Daylight Savings Time Begins	Laudatory Brief of Pope Pius VII Mass and Prayers for the Society of Mary					
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Third Sunday of Lent		St. Patrick's Day		St. Joseph Patron of the Society of Mary		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Fourth Sunday of Lent		St. Oscar Romero	The Annunciation of The Lord			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Fifth Sunday of Lent						
29	30	31				

# March 2020

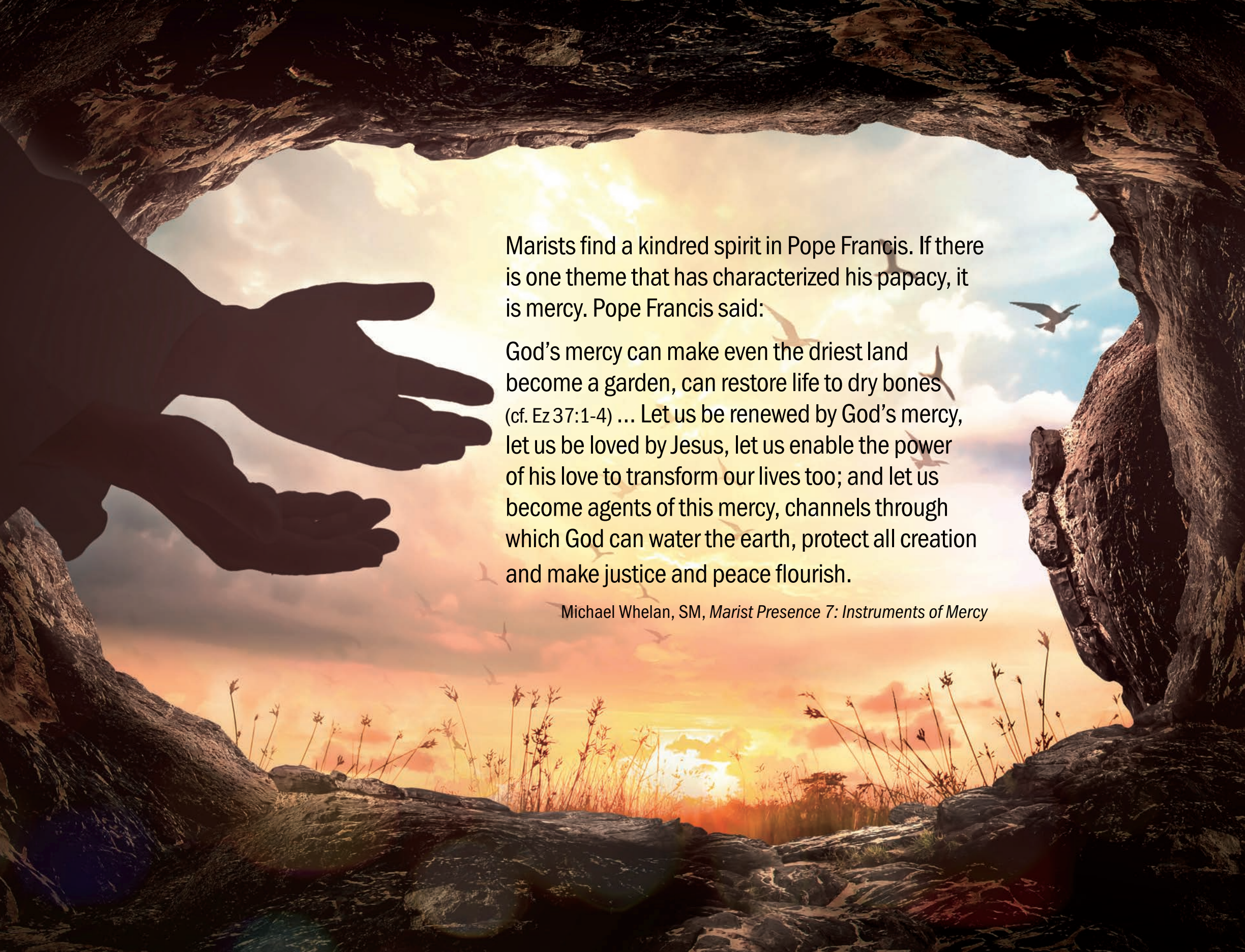
FEBRUARY 2020

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APRIL 2020

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Marists find a kindred spirit in Pope Francis. If there is one theme that has characterized his papacy, it is mercy. Pope Francis said:

God's mercy can make even the driest land become a garden, can restore life to dry bones (cf. Ez 37:1-4) ... Let us be renewed by God's mercy, let us be loved by Jesus, let us enable the power of his love to transform our lives too; and let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish.

Michael Whelan, SM, *Marist Presence 7: Instruments of Mercy*



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
Palm Sunday	Monday of Holy Week	Tuesday of Holy Week	Wednesday of Holy Week	Holy Thursday	Passion of The Lord Good Friday	Holy Saturday
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Easter Sunday Resurrection of The Lord	Easter Monday					
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Second Sunday of Easter Sunday of Divine Mercy						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Third Sunday of Easter		St. Peter Chanel, Martyred 1841 Mass and Prayers for Vocations to the Society of Mary	Pontifical Approbation of the Society of Mary by Pope Gregory XVI, 1836 Mass and Prayers for the Society of Mary			
26	27	28	29	30		

# April 2020

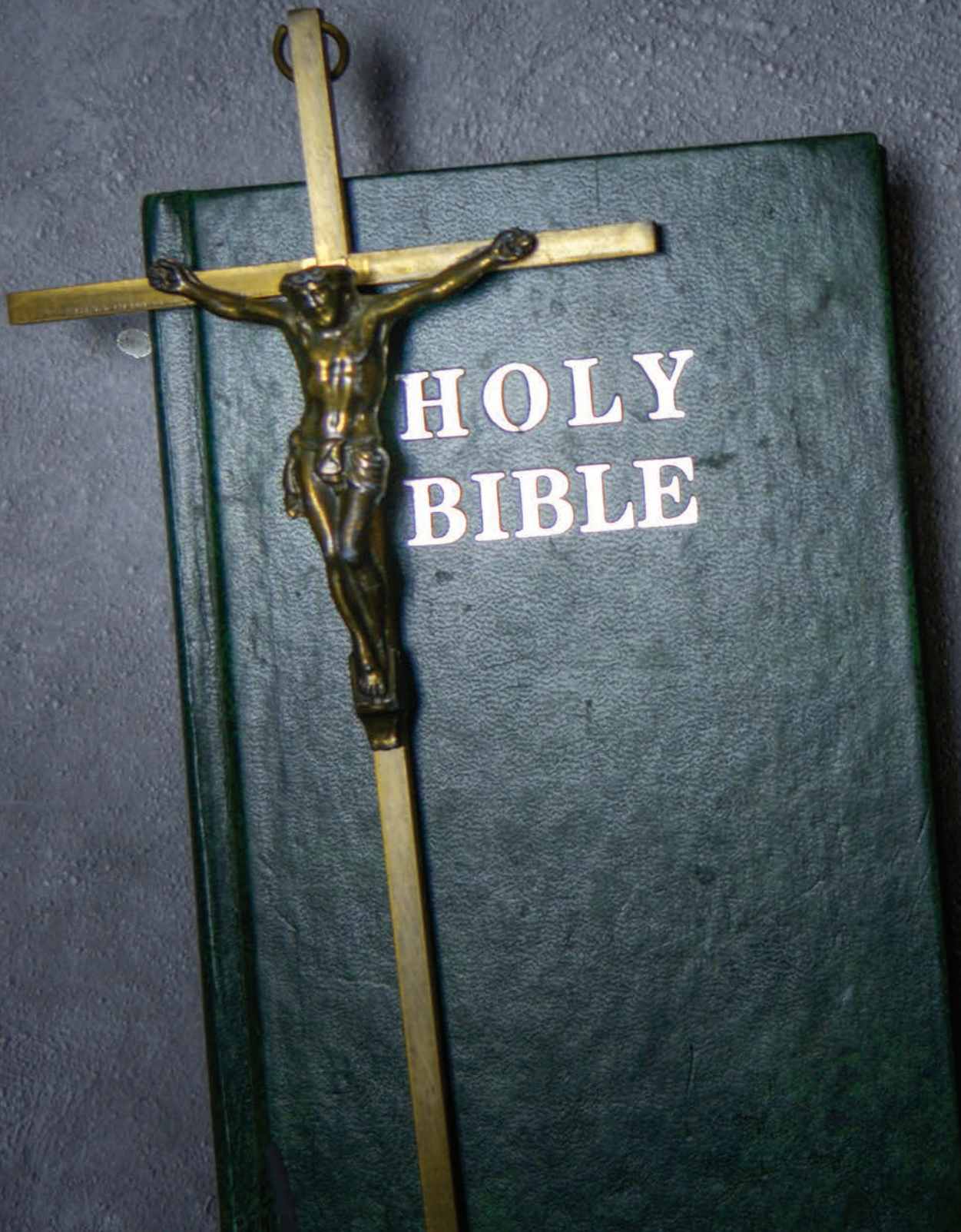
MARCH 2020

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MAY 2020

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31						





In the Marists *Constitutions*, it states:  
“When they make profession, Marists declare before the Church and one another their intention to live out their baptism more fully. They choose to follow Christ more closely by a radical commitment to the spirit of the Beatitudes in a community that has one heart and mind.” *Marist Constitutions*, 93



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
Fourth Sunday of Easter						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Fifth Sunday of Easter Mother's Day						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Sixth Sunday of Easter				Ascension of The Lord		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Seventh Sunday of Easter	Memorial Day		Mass and Prayers for Living Benefactors		Pope St. Paul VI	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Pentecost Sunday Visitation of The Blessed Virgin Mary						
31						

# May 2020

APRIL 2020

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JUNE 2020

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Fr. Colin stated: “The Society of Mary began like the Church, so we must be like the apostles and those who joined them and were already numerous. One heart and one soul.” *A Founder Speaks* 42, 3



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church					St. Marcellin Champagnat, Died 1840
	1	2	3	4	5	6
The Most Holy Trinity						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Corpus Christi					The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Father's Day			The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles					
28	29	30				

# June 2020

MAY 2020

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31						

JULY 2020

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Discernment is where and how our contemplation truly becomes  
“the energy source, the mystical heart of Marist mission.”

2017 Marist General Chapter, 30





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			St. Junipero Serra			Independence Day
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
St. Peter Chanel, Born 1803		St. Kateri Tekakwitha				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	Pledge at Fourvière to found the Society of Mary, 1816 Mass and Prayers for the Society of Mary	24	25
					St. Ignatius of Loyola	
26	27	28	29	30	31	

# July 2020

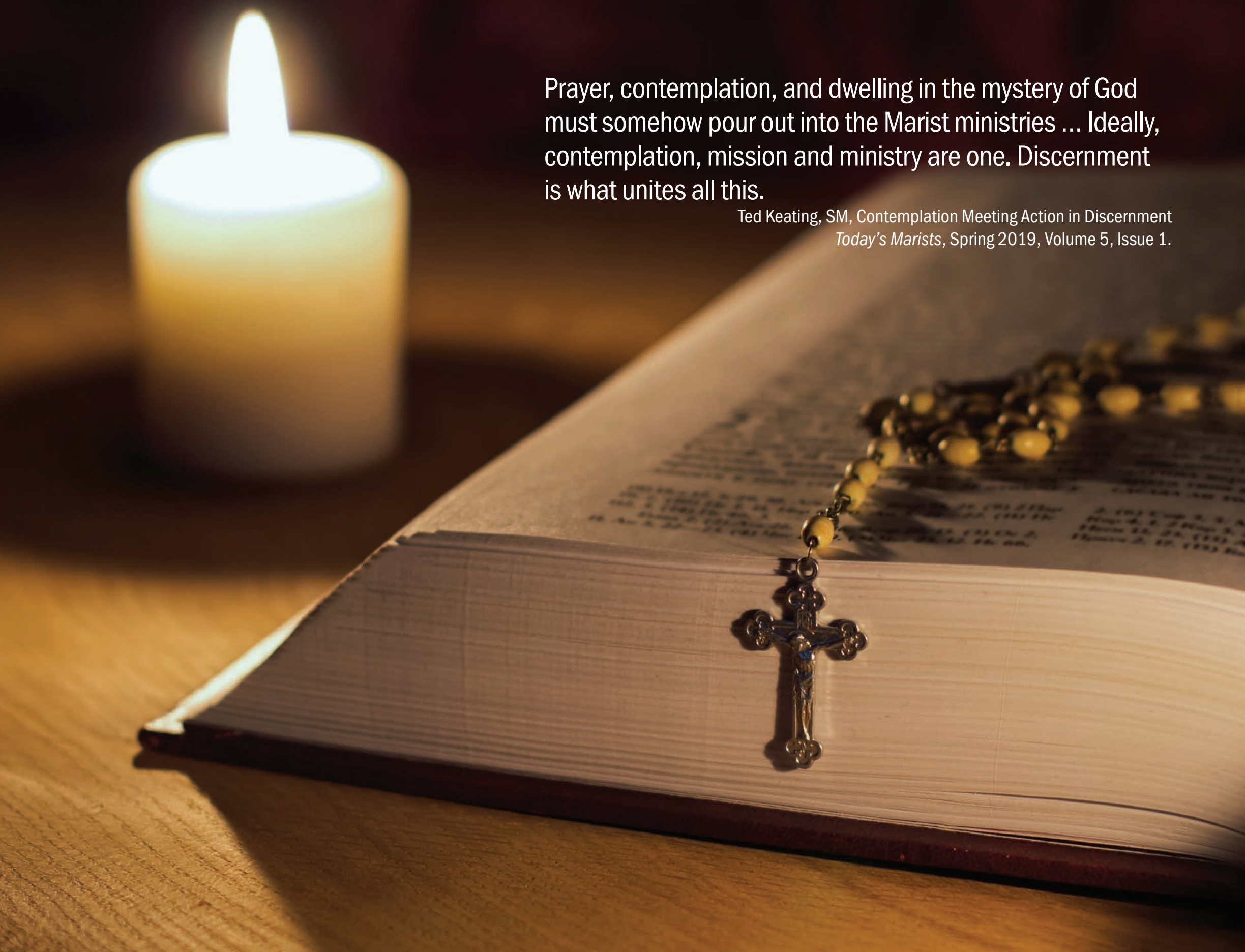
JUNE 2020

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AUGUST 2020

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A photograph of a lit candle, an open book, and a rosary. The candle is on the left, glowing. The book is open on the right, with a rosary resting on it. The scene is dimly lit, with the candle providing the main light source.

Prayer, contemplation, and dwelling in the mystery of God must somehow pour out into the Marist ministries ... Ideally, contemplation, mission and ministry are one. Discernment is what unites all this.

Ted Keating, SM, Contemplation Meeting Action in Discernment  
*Today's Marists*, Spring 2019, Volume 5, Issue 1.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						St. Alphonsus de Liguori Secondary Patron of the Society of Mary 1
St. Peter Julian Eymard, Former Marist, Founder Blessed Sacrament Congregation 2	3	4	5	The Transfiguration of The Lord 6	Fr. Jean-Claude Colin, SM, Born 1790 7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary Marists Renew Their Vows 15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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# August 2020

JULY 2020

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SEPTEMBER 2020

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A decision is not necessarily a deliberate, self-conscious choice and it does not necessarily occur in the context of prayer. Discernment does both. With discernment, we enter into a dialogue with God, after establishing a right relationship between ourselves and God. In that mutual sharing and trust, an answer emerges. Then we not only see as God sees, but we act as we believe God would want us to act.

Monty Williams, SJ, *The Gift of Spiritual Intimacy: Following the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius*



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
First Vows of Marist Sisters, 1826 6	Labor Day 7	Nativity of The Blessed Virgin Mary 8	9	10	11	Solemnity of the Most Holy Name of Mary Marist Patronal Feast Mass and Prayers for the Society of Mary 12
13	14	Our Lady of Sorrows 15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	Election of First Superior General of Society of Mary, 1836 First Profession of Marists Mass and Prayers for the Society of Mary 24	25	26
St. Vincent de Paul Secondary Patron of the Society of Mary 27	28	Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels Patrons of the Society of Mary 29	30			

# September 2020

AUGUST 2020

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OCTOBER 2020

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The great gift St. Ignatius of Loyola and the Jesuits have given to the Church is this “gracious” work referred to as discernment ... The aim is to search in our hearts through prayer and in the midst of desires, consolations, and desolations, for clarity about where God is calling us (drawing us by desire), while also helping us to become conscious of the false desires that tend to lead us away from God.

Ted Keating, SM, Contemplation Meeting  
Action in Discernment, *Today's Marists*,  
Spring 2019, Volume 5, Issue 1.





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus		St. Mother Théodore Guérin
				1	2	3
St. Francis of Assisi			Our Lady of the Rosary			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Pope St. John XXIII	Columbus Day					
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
				Pope St. John Paul II		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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# October 2020

## SEPTEMBER 2020

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## NOVEMBER 2020

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29	30					



Justin Taylor, SM, describes concisely how the mission is shaped when we are hidden and unknown: “Mary provides a model of a style of behavior that does not refuse to move into action ... Once we have given up, with Mary, all power of ourselves we will know how to walk alongside those who have no power; we will at least be able to speak with the true authority of the Gospel.

Michael Whelan, SM, *Marist Presence 5: Unknown and Hidden*



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
All Saints Daylight Savings Time Ends	All Souls' Day Mass for Deceased Marists	Mass for Deceased Benefactors				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			Veterans Day		St. Frances Xavier Cabrini	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Death of Fr. Jean-Claude Colin, SM, 1875 Mass and Prayers for the Society of Mary						Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Christ The King				Thanksgiving Day		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
First Sunday of Advent						
29	30					

# November 2020

OCTOBER 2020

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DECEMBER 2020

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Nothing is more practical than  
finding God, than falling in Love  
in a quite absolute, final way.  
What you are in love with,  
what seizes your imagination, will affect everything.  
It will decide  
what will get you out of bed in the morning,  
what you do with your evenings,  
how you spend your weekends,  
what you read, whom you know,  
what breaks your heart,  
and what amazes you with joy and gratitude.  
Fall in Love, stay in love,  
and it will decide everything.

Attributed to Fr. Pedro Arrupe, SJ (1907-1991)





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
Second Sunday of Advent		Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary				Our Lady of Guadalupe
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Third Sunday of Advent						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Fourth Sunday of Advent					The Nativity of The Lord Christmas	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph			Marist Missionary Sisters' Constitutions Approved by Rome, 1931			
27	28	29	30	31		

# December 2020

NOVEMBER 2020

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JANUARY 2021

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# Society of Mary Province in the United States

## The Magnificat The Prayer of Mary

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him  
in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm,  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel  
for he remembered his promise of mercy,  
the promise he made to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his children forever.

(Lk 1:46-55)

### SOCIETY OF MARY INFORMATION

Please contact us about Marist locations in the U.S. and abroad by  
contacting Marist Provincial House in Washington, D.C. at 202-529 2821  
or [info@maristsociety.org](mailto:info@maristsociety.org).

### TO SUPPORT THE MARISTS IN THE U.S.

Marist Fathers and Brothers of the United States Office of Development  
698 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02215-2508

Mr. Paul Carr, Director  
Ms. Denise D'Amico, Secretary  
Telephone: 617-451-3237  
Fax: 617-451-3247  
Email: [maristdevelopment@gmail.com](mailto:maristdevelopment@gmail.com)

[www.societyofmaryusa.org](http://www.societyofmaryusa.org)

### TO SUPPORT THE MARISTS MISSIONS

Marist Foreign Missions  
698 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02215-2508

Rev. Walter Gaudreau, S.M., Director  
Ms. Denise D'Amico, Secretary  
Telephone: 617-451-3237  
Fax: 617-451-3247  
Email: [MaristWorldMissions@gmail.com](mailto:MaristWorldMissions@gmail.com)

### COVER

Statue of Mary, Brady Chapel at Marist School, Atlanta, Georgia



Rev. Paul Frechette, S.M., Provincial Superior  
The Society of Mary in the United States of America  
815 Varnum Street, NE | Washington, DC 20017

At our best, we are instruments of God's mercy working to help others taste the boundless love of the Lord, especially those who find themselves on the margins. As Marists, we seek to go where the Church is not. We should enable all with whom we come into contact to experience the gift of reconciliation as well as peace of heart and mind. Mary is the icon of God's Spirit. As her fellow disciples, we pray that with God's grace we become the same. (Statement of Identity for the US Province 2013)

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