



Society of Mary

THE MARISTS IN THE UNITED STATES

A Plea for a
Marian Church

2021 Calendar

Marian Church

by Francois Marc, SM

I would like to plead for a **Marian Church**; not for a church which multiplies processions and blesses huge statues.... rather a Church which “lives the Gospel after the manner of Mary.”

The **Marian Church** follows Mary into the mountains, going off with her to encounter life; she visits men and women, and, though things may seem to be sterile, she is on the watch for what is coming to birth, for possibilities, for the life which beats in things.

The **Marian Church** rejoices and sings. Instead of bemoaning its fate and the world's woes, she is in wonder at the beauty there is on the earth and in the human heart, as she sees what God is doing there.

The **Marian Church** knows she is the object of a gratuitous love, and that God has the heart of a mother. She has seen God on the doorstep, on the lookout for the improbable return of a son; she has seen him throw his arms around his neck, place the festal ring on his finger, and himself organize the home-coming feast. When she pages through the family album, she sees Zacchaeus in his sycamore, the woman taken in adultery, the Samaritan woman, foreigners, the lepers, beggars and a common prisoner at his place of execution. So you see, the **Marian Church** despairs of no one, and does not quench the smoking flax. When she finds someone on the side of the road wounded by life, she is moved by compassion, and with infinite tenderness tends their wounds. She is the safe harbor, who is always open, the refuge of sinners, *mater misericordiae*, mother of mercy.

The **Marian Church** does not know the answers before the questions are posed. Her path is not traced out in advance. She knows doubt and unease, night and loneliness. That is the price of trust. She takes her part in the conversation, but makes no claim to know everything. She accepts that she must search.

The **Marian Church** lives in Nazareth in silence and simplicity. She does not live in a castle. Her home is like all the other

homes. She goes out to chat with the other villagers. She weeps with them, she rejoices with them, but she never preaches to them. Above all she listens.

The **Marian Church** stands at the foot of the Cross. She does not take refuge in a fortress or in a chapel or imprudent silence when people are being crushed. She is vulnerable in her deeds as in her words. With a humble courage she stands alongside the most insignificant.

The **Marian Church** lets in the wind of Pentecost, the wind which impels one to go out, which unties tongues. In the public square, not for the sake of hammering doctrine, nor to swell her ranks, she proclaims her message: the promise has been kept, the fight has been won and the Dragon crushed forever. And this is the great secret which she can only murmur: to win the victory God has laid down his arms. True, we are in an intermediate time, the time of human history. And that history is a painful one.

Yet every evening at the end of Vespers the Church sings the Magnificat. For the Church knows where her joy is to be found. And look: God has not found our world or its afflictions, its violence or its wickedness uninhabitable. It is there that He has met us. And there, on the Cross, we have seen the “mercy”, the open heart of God.

There at the foot of the Cross a people was born, a Marian people. Seeing his mother and near her the disciple whom he loved, Jesus said to his mother: ‘Woman, this is your son.’ Then to the disciple he said: ‘This is your mother.’ From that moment, the disciple made a place for her in his home.

Brothers and sisters, let us belong to this people. Let us make a place for Mary in our home. Let us enter with her into the “humble and heart-rending happiness” of loving and being loved. And, in the words of Therese of Lisieux, the Church will be in this world “a heart resplendent with love”.





Notre Dame de France, London, England

“The Marian Church rejoices and sings. Instead of bemoaning its fate and the world’s woes, she is in wonder at the beauty there is on the earth and in the human heart, as she sees what God is doing there.”

~ Francois Marc, SM

A Plea for a Marian Church

by Ted Keating, SM

The year 2020 will be long remembered. One of the most frequent conversations for most of the year had to do with “Who could have predicted this?” “How could so much have changed so rapidly from even the early months of the year?” “Will we ever get back to the normal we once knew?” Often the words to describe most of this year are beyond us because they are clearly beyond anything that would have described our life before this year.

We were sharing back and forth via Zoom and other forms of social media in early Spring 2020 about what “sheltering in place” (almost a new normal itself at that point until it got “old”) was doing to us. There were conversations about monastic living, contemplation and having the time to read and reflect. Parents were home with their children as both the workplace and school turned virtual. A volume could be put together of poems shared back and forth to describe the experience. Artists and other musicians began using the internet to meet our aesthetic needs and keep our spirits up.

Then the thundering reality grew into its own crescendo of illness and death as the virus took its shocking toll. We became aware of the frightening reality of the elderly succumbing just because they were elderly. Then African Americans were dying in numbers grossly exceeding white people, and immigrants and refugees next. Like a prophetic voice from the Jewish Testament it began tearing the illusive boundaries off of so much of our society: the unspeakable realization of how many were suffering without basic health care as that major gap in our society emerged; the absence of access to hospitals in cities and states where the virus was most crushing; the frightening impact on the economy as it was shutdown to shelter from the worst of the damage of the virus. The statistics over many years about how people in our society live one paycheck away from homelessness were suddenly and graphically revealed to us with miles and miles of cars lined up at food banks seeking just daily bread.

Our politics in so many ways cracked and shattered into weakening partisan rhetoric and behavior that made direct and persistent work to hold back the virus almost impossible.

And then the brutal images of a black man being systematically strangled by the foot of a white police officer on his throat as he pleaded for his life: “I can’t breathe” led to a powerful national movement including large numbers of supportive people from all ethnic backgrounds determined to take up the issues of racism in the U.S. with widespread protests and a new consciousness of white privilege that is far from resolution.

The year 2020 will not be forgotten. So, our calendar for 2021 is truly a “Plea.” A plea in the name of justice and equality, compassion, sensitivity to one another, reconciliation and forgiveness that tests our capacity to love one another as a nation, as a people, and as “the Beloved Community” to use that missionary phrase of Martin Luther King. The “mask” this year gradually became a sacramental manifestation of our love for one another. It doesn’t protect us so much as our brothers and sisters around us. The other great symbol that sticks in our imagination and memory is the widespread national protests by ethnically diverse groups of people joining with blacks and whites marching for a more just and loving nation that can become a model and witness of a newer world less afflicted by all these challenges. But love begins at home.

The poetic depiction of our Marist vision of a Marian Church throughout this calendar calls us forth to move beyond poetry to a lived Plea for a Marian Church on behalf of Fr. Jean-Claude Colin’s broader call “to the whole world Marist.” We Marists do not seek to become famous as a Congregation but we do seek to see a Marian Church pouring its mission, ministries, and proclamation of the mysteries of Christ over into a world that represents the values of “The Marian Church.” Vatican II in the *Church in the Modern World* clearly sought to create a Church aware of its mission to all humanity. It had the boldness to say that the Church is the Sacrament of the reconciliation of all humanity - also the vision of each celebration of the Eucharist.

So, our Plea here may seem terribly idealistic, but as Marists we understand that Mary is the one who knows that we worship a God for “whom nothing is impossible.” So the causes we face are as large as God’s desires even when to others these causes appear hopeless.



“... many aspects of the Church today simply reflect the characteristics of modern society: a preoccupation with systems and organizations, with competition, achievement, power, control, success, words and logic. In this sort of society and Church, it is hard to find a place for compassion, silence, contemplation and relationship. So, it is easy to see what a significant change could be made in this society and Church by a group of people - including men - who live by the spirit of the woman Mary, ... In this sense, it becomes very enriching to speak of ‘a Marian Church’ or ‘a Church with a Marian face.’” – Craig Larkin, SM, *A Certain Way: An exploration of Marist Spirituality*

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

January 2021

DECEMBER 2020

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

FEBRUARY 2021

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

“A Church that is a mother goes along the path of tenderness. It knows the language of such wisdom of caresses, of silence, of the gaze that knows compassion, that knows silent. It is, too, a soul, a person who lives out this way of being a member of the Church, knowing that he or she is [like] a mother [and] must go along the same path: a person [who is] gentle, tender, smiling, full of love.”

–Pope Francis, Homily, Mass at the Casa Santa Marta on the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, May 2018



DON
DES FILLES
DE LA CHARITE

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

February 2021

JANUARY 2021

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MARCH 2021

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28	29	30	31			

“If we think of Church simply as ‘the place where people can be saved’, then it is difficult to see where Mary fits in, because there is only one Savior and Mediator — Jesus Christ. But if we think of Church as ‘the place where people grow in life’, then it is easy to look on Mary — woman, mother, disciple — as one who teaches us how to be disciples of Jesus, and how to keep the Gospel values always in focus.”

– Craig Larkin, SM, *A Certain Way: An exploration of Marist Spirituality*



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

March 2021

FEBRUARY 2021

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APRIL 2021

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“I would like to plead for a Marian Church; not for a church which multiplies processions, and blesses huge statues ... rather a Church which ‘lives the Gospel after the manner of Mary.’”

— Francois Marc, SM
A Marian Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				Holy Thursday	Passion of The Lord Good Friday	Holy Saturday
				1	2	3
Easter Sunday Resurrection of The Lord	Easter Monday					
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Second Sunday of Easter Sunday of Divine Mercy						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Third Sunday of Easter						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Fourth 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		
25	26	27	28	29	30	

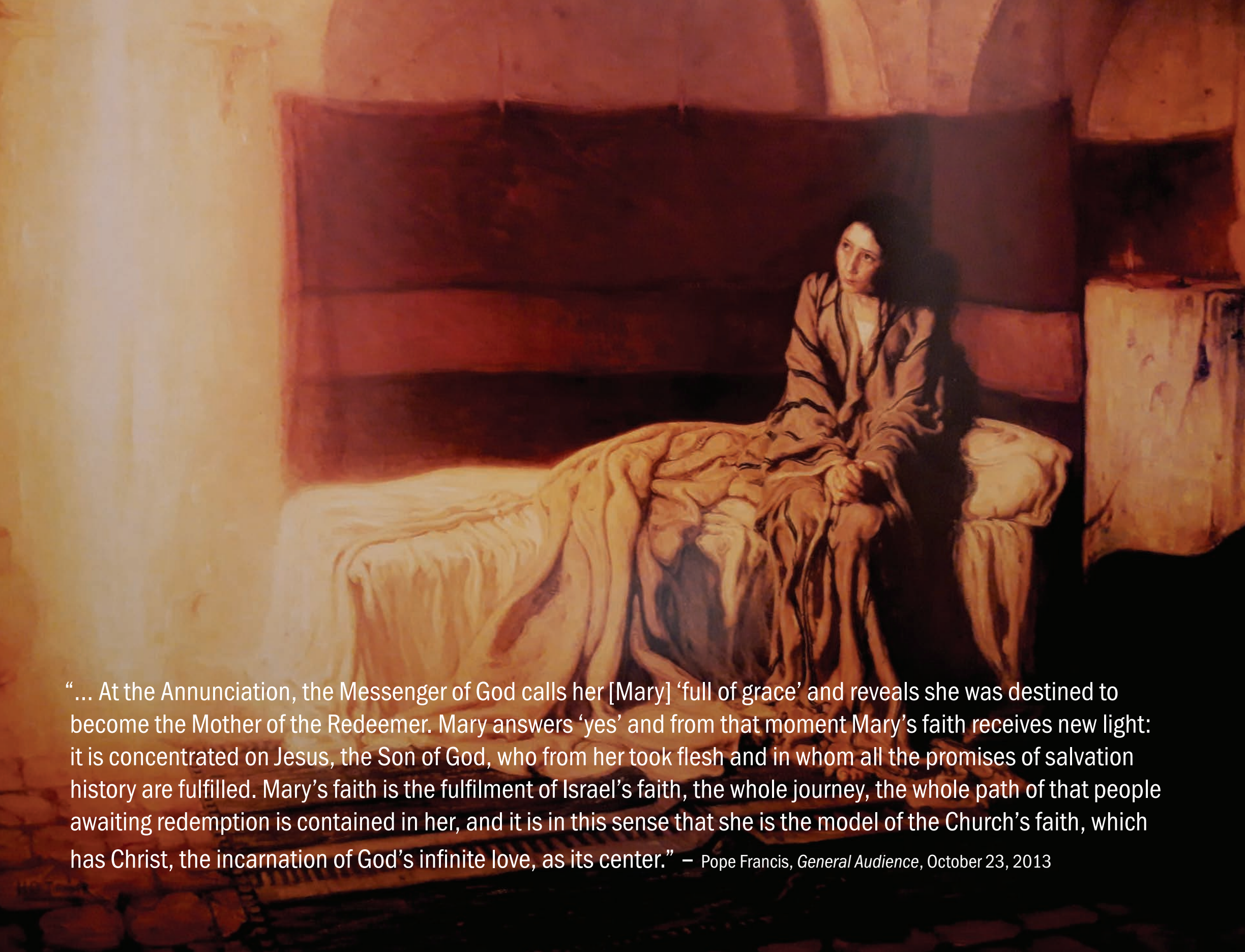
April 2021

MARCH 2021

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MAY 2021

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



“... At the Annunciation, the Messenger of God calls her [Mary] ‘full of grace’ and reveals she was destined to become the Mother of the Redeemer. Mary answers ‘yes’ and from that moment Mary’s faith receives new light: it is concentrated on Jesus, the Son of God, who from her took flesh and in whom all the promises of salvation history are fulfilled. Mary’s faith is the fulfilment of Israel’s faith, the whole journey, the whole path of that people awaiting redemption is contained in her, and it is in this sense that she is the model of the Church’s faith, which has Christ, the incarnation of God’s infinite love, as its center.” — Pope Francis, *General Audience*, October 23, 2013

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

May 2021

APRIL 2021

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				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	11
11	12	13	14	15	16	18
18	19	20	21	22	23	25
25	26	27	28	29	30	

JUNE 2021

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



“The Marian Church follows Mary into the Mountains, going off with her to encounter life; she visits men and women, and, though things may seem to be sterile, she is on the watch for what is coming to birth, for possibilities, for the life which beats in things.” — Francois Marc, SM, *A Marian Church*

SATURDAY

5

12

19

26

30

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



“A Marian Church is a Church which makes a choice for compassion over competition; an option for relationship over dogmatism; for humility over power; for service over dominance. It is a Church which pushes its boundaries to include all, rather than one which defines its boundaries to contain the chosen. And it is a Church which includes the feminine in its attitudes, which can too easily become over-masculine.”

– Craig Larkin, SM, *A Certain Way:
An exploration of Marist Spirituality*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				St. Junipero Serra		
				1	2	3
Independence Day						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	St. Peter Chanel, Born 1803		St. Kateri Tekakwitha			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
					Pledge at Fourvière to found the Society of Mary, 1816 Mass and Prayers for the Society of Mary	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
						St. Ignatius of Loyola
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

July 2021

JUNE 2021

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

AUGUST 2021

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



“The Marian Church rejoices and Sings. Instead of bemoaning its fate and the world’s woes, she is in wonder at the beauty there is on the earth and in the human heart, as she sees what God is doing there.”

– Francois Marc, SM, *A Marian Church*

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	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August 2021

JULY 2021

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SEPTEMBER 2021

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“In the Gospels, Mary appears as a woman of few words, with no great speeches or deeds, but with an attentive gaze capable of guarding the life and mission of her Son, and for this reason, of everything that He loves. She was able to watch over the beginnings of the first Christian community, and in this way she learned to be the mother of a multitude. ... Mary gave us ... the maternal warmth that keeps anything or anyone from extinguishing in the heart of the Church the revolution of tenderness inaugurated by her Son.”

– Pope Francis, Homily, Holy Mass at the Vatican Basilica on the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, January 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	First Vows of Marist Sisters, 1826 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 2021

AUGUST 2021

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OCTOBER 2021

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31						



“The Marian Church knows she is the object of a gratuitous love, and that God has the heart of a Mother. She has seen God on the doorstep, on the lookout for the improbable return of a son; she has seen him throw his arms around his neck, place the festal ring on his finger, and himself organize the home-coming feast. ... When she finds someone on the side of the road wounded by life, she is moved by compassion, and with infinite tenderness tends their wounds. She is the safe harbor, who is always open, the refuge of sinners, ‘Mater Misericordiae’, Mother of Mercy.” – Francois Marc, SM, *A Marian Church*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus	
					1	2
St. Mother Théodore Guérin	St. Francis of Assisi			Our Lady of the Rosary		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Pope St. John XXIII Columbus Day					
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
					Pope St. John Paul II	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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October 2021

SEPTEMBER 2021

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NOVEMBER 2021

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28	29	30				



“The Church with a Marian face does not feel the need to create bigger and bigger things to ensure that God is properly honored. It is a Church which understands that small things can be, and often are, the most significant things.”

– Craig Larkin, SM, *A Certain Way: An exploration of Marist Spirituality*

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

November 2021

OCTOBER 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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DECEMBER 2021

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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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“The Marian Church does not know the answers before the questions are posed. Her path is not traced out in advance. She knows doubt and unease, night and loneliness. That is the price of trust. She takes her part in the conversation, but makes no claim to know everything. She accepts that she must search.” – Francois Marc, SM, *A Marian Church*

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

December 2021

NOVEMBER 2021

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JANUARY 2022

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Society of Mary Province in the United States

Statement of Identity

US Province of the Marists Assembly and Chapter of June 2013

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.

SOCIETY OF MARY INFORMATION

Please contact us about Marist locations in the U.S. and abroad by contacting the Marist Provincial House in Washington, D.C.

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Email: smpublications@maristsociety.org

TO SUPPORT THE MARISTS IN THE U.S.

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Fax: 617-451-3247

Email: development@maristsociety.org

www.societyofmaryusa.org

TO SUPPORT THE MARISTS MISSIONS

Marist Foreign Missions

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COVER

Mary - Mother of Mercy

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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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