

Lent 2021



During this season of Lent, the Marists invite our friends to explore Marist spirituality. It is a spirituality in a certain way of living the Gospel. The first Marists were inspired by a question: *“What if we discovered the Gospel together, and lived it as Mary lived it?”* What they found made a difference to their lives; and yet it was a simple way of life that anyone could live, no matter what their age or state.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>Let Mary be our Guide and example of Courage in Lent.</i></p> <p>(Print by Bernadette Carstensen)</p>		<p>February 17 (Ash Wednesday)</p> <p>Marists take Mary as their model in all that they do. They come gradually to think judge, feel and act in a new way - Mary's way.</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater At the cross her station keeping, Stood the mournful Mother weeping, Near her Son until the end.</i></p>	<p>February 18</p> <p>When Marists look to Mary they always see her as a person, an individual in relationship with God the Father, with her Son, Jesus and with the Holy Spirit, as well as in relationship with the Church and with the contemporary world.</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater Through her heart, his sorrow sharing, All his bitter anguish bearing, Now at length the sword has passed.</i></p>	<p>February 19</p> <p>Marists are called for a deep, personal relationship with Mary, without, however, making her the central focus. Our emphasis is on living like Mary, adopting her faith, her point of view, her whole approach to life. In a most profound sense, this means to make Mary present to our world today.</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater O how sad and sore distressed Was that Mother, highly blest Of the sole-begotten One.</i></p>	<p>February 20</p> <p>Marists look to Mary as the first and best disciple of Jesus. As disciple, the focus of her attention was away from herself and always on Jesus.</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater Christ above in torment hangs, She beneath beholds the pangs, Of her dying glorious Son.</i></p>	

At the Cross her station keeping, stood the mournful Mother weeping, Near her Son until the end.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>February 21</p> <p>As disciple, Mary heard and welcomed the Word, pondered it, searched its meaning for her life and then acted on it.</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater</i> Is there one who would not weep, Whelmed in miseries so deep, Christ's dear Mother to behold?</p>	<p>February 22</p> <p>Nazareth represents the first of two points of reference in Mary's life and in the life of the first Marists. At Nazareth, Mary "stored up in her heart" and pondered the words of Jesus.</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater</i> Can the human heart refrain? From partaking in her pain, In that Mother's pain untold?</p>	<p>February 23</p> <p>Nazareth means openness and growth and waiting for the Spirit who is gradually, quietly, and imperceptibly changing us from within.</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater</i> O our Mother, fount of love, touch my spirit from above; Help us love as you have done.</p>	<p>February 24</p> <p>The mystery of the newborn Church following Pentecost, the image of Mary in the midst of the apostles and other first Christians, is the second major reference point for Marists. The Marists picture Mary present in this group of her Son's followers, and they acknowledge how much she is able to contribute to the life of the Church, in her hidden way, through her faith and wisdom.</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater</i> Make me feel as you have felt; Make my soul to glow and melt With the love of Christ my Lord.</p>	<p>February 25</p> <p>Mary's presence in the early Christian community at Jerusalem was quiet and unassuming. Marist take this figure of Mary as their model in the way they evangelize. They adopt a low-profile approach always having great respect of others.</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater</i> Holy Mother! Pierce me through, In my heart each wound renew Of my Savior crucified.</p>	<p>February 26</p> <p>The phrase "<i>Hidden and Unknown in the World</i>" is the singular manner in which Marists live their lives, striving to bring the men and women of their time to Jesus Christ.</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater</i> Let me share with you his pain, Who for all my sins was slain, Who for me in torments died.</p>	<p>February 27</p> <p>Although Scripture say little about Mary, we do know that she was there in the early church, and we know that she was there as woman and mother.</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater</i> By the Cross with you to stay There with you to weep and pray, Is all I ask of you to give.</p>
<p>February 28</p> <p>Fr. Jean-Claude Colin's, the founder of the Marists, line of thinking adds something more: Mary was the perfect disciple of the Lord, whose one thought was the extension and development of the Church and whose attitude was that of a hidden believer.</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater</i> Virgin of all virgins blest! Listen to my found request: Let me share your grief divine.</p>	<p>March 1</p> <p>Marists see Mary as supporting, nourishing, encouraging others, especially its leaders, the apostles chosen by her Son.</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater</i> Help me, with my last breath, In my body bear the death Of that dying Son of yours.</p>	<p>March 2</p> <p>As disciple, Mary heard and welcomed the Word, pondered it, searched its meaning for her life and then acted on it.</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater</i> Christ, when you shall call me hence, be your Mother my defense, be your Cross my victory.</p>	<p>March 3</p> <p>Marists who live this way of life, will help a "disciple Church" to emerge: a Church that listens to, submits to and acts upon the Word which has been proclaimed.</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater</i> While my body here decays, May my soul your goodness praise, Safe in paradise with you.</p>	<p>March 4</p> <p>Fr. Colin, SM said, "... that our Lord left the Blessed Virgin behind on earth after His Ascension is without doubt a great mystery. The apostles needed her to guide them and to be in a sense the foundress of the Church. At the end of time her protection will shine forth in an even greater way ..."</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater</i> At the cross her station keeping, Stood the mournful Mother weeping, Near her Son until the end.</p>	<p>March 5</p> <p>Mary, from being Jesus' mother, becomes his first and perfect disciple, i.e. she makes the perfect human response to Him and to the Spirit He sends.</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater</i> Through her heart, his sorrow sharing, All his bitter anguish bearing, Now at length the sword has passed.</p>	<p>March 6</p> <p>Mary's way of living the Gospel encourages us to ask, "What are the needs of this person?" Mary is the signpost, pointing away from herself to Christ, whose mission on earth is her only concern.</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater</i> O how sad and sore distressed Was that Mother, highly blest Of the sole-begotten One.</p>

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<p>March 7</p> <p>The word Marist is composed of the first three letters of Mary's name, and the last three letters of Christ's name. You may begin by looking at Mary, but you always end up looking at Christ.</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater Christ above in torment hangs, She beneath beholds the pangs, Of her dying glorious Son.</i></p>	<p>March 8</p> <p>Marists try not to criticize but to encourage, coax, beseech and take all the means possible to help bring people into contact with their God. Like Mary of the Visitation, at Cana and at the foot of the Cross, Marists are concerned about the place of meeting.</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater Is there one who would not weep, Whelmed in miseries so deep, Christ's dear Mother to behold?</i></p>	<p>March 9</p> <p>Marists do the work of Mary in this world; participate in her realm of mercy by being instruments of mercy.</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater Can the human heart refrain? From partaking in her pain, In that Mother's pain untold?</i></p>	<p>March 10</p> <p>Marists are to welcome and embrace all, to the exclusion of no one, and to have an open heart for all.</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater O our Mother, fount of love, touch my spirit from above; Help us love as you have done.</i></p>	<p>March 11</p> <p>Like the first missionaries they proclaim the Good News of God's mercy to those most in need.</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater Make me feel as you have felt; Make my soul to glow and melt With the love of Christ my Lord.</i></p>	<p>March 12</p> <p>Fr. Colin, SM invites Marists to follow in Mary's footsteps and keep their eyes focused on God alone ... rejecting the crippling forces of greed, pride and power.</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater In my heart each wound renew Of my Savior crucified. Of my Savior crucified.</i></p>	<p>March 13</p> <p>They are to go place to place doing the works of mercy especially to the most neglected, the poor and those who suffer injustice.</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater Let me share with you His pain, Who for all my sins was slain, Who for me in torments died.</i></p>
<p>March 14</p> <p>Mary is the master work of the hands of God, the prodigy of His power, the miracle of His wisdom and mercy.</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater By the Cross with you to stay There with you to weep and pray, Is all I ask of you to give.</i></p>	<p>March 15</p> <p>Marist are to strive with every fiber of their being to emulate these wonderful examples of humility as grace will allow, so that, empty of all vainglory, they may be filled with grace and become, in God's hands, suitable instruments of the divine mercies towards their neighbor.</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater Virgin of all virgins blest! Listen to my found request: Let me share your grief divine.</i></p>	<p>March 16</p> <p>Then freed from slavery to self-love and self-interest, you will become instruments of the great mercies of God toward sinners.</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater Help me, with my last breath, In my body bear the death Of that dying Son of yours.</i></p>	<p>March 17</p> <p>In the Society we shall profess all those moral opinions which give the greatest play to the mercy of God, on account of the great weakness of poor human nature without however falling into a laziest theology.</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater Christ, when you shall call me hence, be your Mother my defense, be your Cross my victory.</i></p>	<p>March 18</p> <p>Marists accept the call and the challenge to portray this merciful face of God and to build a Church which is perceived not in terms of power, control or competition, but rather in terms of community, compassion, simplicity and above all, mercy.</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater While my body here decays, May my soul your goodness praise, Safe in paradise with you.</i></p>	<p>March 19</p> <p>The last prayer that Jesus prayed for His disciples on the night before He died ... simply "that they may be one" so that the world would believe that Jesus was God and had been sent by the Father for the salvation of the world.</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater At the cross her station keeping, Stood the mournful Mother weeping, Near her Son until the end.</i></p>	<p>March 20</p> <p>For Fr. Colin, SM, the communion of mind and heart was basic to the very mission of the Society. It would be the means by which Marists learn to discover the Gospel together and live it as Mary did.</p> <p><i>Stabat Mater Through her heart, His sorrow sharing, All his bitter anguish bearing, Now at length the sword has passed.</i></p>

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p align="center">March 21</p> <p>The special vocation of the Marists is not only to go to the limits and then beyond. There is a work to be done at the margins, a work which is about the compassion of God.</p> <p align="center"><i>Stabat Mater</i> <i>O how sad and sore distressed</i> <i>Was that Mother, highly blest</i> <i>Of the sole-begotten One.</i></p>	<p align="center">March 22</p> <p>Compassion, like love, craves concrete expression. People on the margins remind us that after all, the things we possess, the reputation we have acquired at the expense of other things, cannot save us.</p> <p align="center"><i>Stabat Mater</i> <i>Christ above in torment hangs,</i> <i>She beneath beholds the pangs,</i> <i>Of her dying glorious Son.</i></p>	<p align="center">March 23</p> <p>We know quite well what Jesus was saying, but somehow, we forget. He was showing us that loving is inseparable from service, and that we must not stand on our dignity but must humble ourselves and do menial, earthy, bodily tasks for our brothers and sisters.</p> <p align="center"><i>Stabat Mater</i> <i>Is there one who would not weep,</i> <i>Whelmed in miseries so deep,</i> <i>Christ's dear Mother to behold?</i></p>	<p align="center">March 24</p> <p>In His life and parables, Jesus offers us an image of God that constantly demands that we allow our myths to be shattered and that we give up notions that would try to limit God's freedom. He shows us a compassionate God who became one of us, and suffered with the poor and oppressed.</p> <p align="center"><i>Stabat Mater</i> <i>Can the human heart refrain?</i> <i>From partaking in her pain,</i> <i>In that Mother's pain untold?</i></p>	<p align="center">March 25</p> <p>Attentive to the cry of the poor, and the demands of social justice, we shall be concerned about the needs and rights of those who suffer... We shall work to promote justice and charity which are an integral part of the Gospel message.</p> <p align="center"><i>Stabat Mater</i> <i>O our Mother, fount of love,</i> <i>touch my spirit from above;</i> <i>Help us love as you have done.</i></p>	<p align="center">March 26</p> <p>Mary totally focused on the coming of God, Jesus going round the towns and villages of Judea and moved with compassion at the sight of the crowds who were dejected: these are the images that nourish Fr. Colin's, SM, meditation the missionary vocation of Marists.</p> <p align="center"><i>Stabat Mater</i> <i>Make me feel as you have felt;</i> <i>Make my soul to glow and melt</i> <i>With the love of Christ my Lord.</i></p>	<p align="center">March 27</p> <p>To cultivate Mary's spirit is to cultivate a sense of service: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord." Singing the Magnificat frees us from all self-concern: I am fully available for service.</p> <p align="center"><i>Stabat Mater</i> <i>In my heart each wound renew</i> <i>Of my Savior crucified.</i> <i>Of my Savior crucified.</i></p>

March 28

A Church with Mary's Features... as Marists we want to live in such a way that the Church is ever more clearly a church of mercy and compassion and a church where the Gospel is lived according to the manner of Mary, always reflecting Christ's great love for the world. A church with the "face of Mary" would make a choice for compassion over competition, an option for relationship over dogmatism, for humility over power, for service over control.

Stabat Mater
Let me share with you His pain,
Who for all my sins was slain,
Who for me in torments died.

Reflection Sources:
 "The work of Mary", The Marist Way pamphlet, Sharing the Marist Way
 A Certain Way: An Exploration of Marist Spirituality by Craig Larkin, SM

"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

