

ADVENT

2025



"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. 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." (Statement of Identity, US Province of the Marists Assembly and Chapter of June 2013)

The Marists Constitutions say, "The spiritual life is nourished by contemplation of the Word of God. This heightens awareness of the presence of the risen Jesus in the everyday life and work of Marists. His presence inspires them to make of their lives and unceasing prayer." (*Constitutions*, 118).

The Marists encourage us to explore glimpses of our spirituality this Advent in silent contemplation because in order for us "to form a communion for mission, we need to deepen the contemplative dimension of our lives. With Jesus at the center, we can, like Mary, be missionaries of hope." (2017 General Chapter, 30)

(Quotes for the 2025 Advent calendar have been selected from Pope Francis' "A Light in the Night - Meditations on Hope." (Jubilee 2025))

SUNDAY**November 30**

When we speak of hope, often it refers to what is not in man's power to realize, that which is invisible. In fact, what we hope for goes beyond our strength and our perception. But the birth of Christ, which inaugurates redemption, speaks to us of a different hope, a dependable, visible, and understandable hope, because it is founded in God.

(~ *Is My Heart an Open Drawer?*)

*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.*

**MONDAY****December 1**

Hope is never still; hope is always journeying, and it makes us journey. This hope, which the Child of Bethlehem gives us, offers a destination ... (~ *Is My Heart an Open Drawer?*)

*From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.*





**TUESDAY****December 2**

...we look to Mary, Mother of Hope. With her "yes," she opened the door of our world to God. Her maiden's heart was full of hope, wholly enlivened by faith; thus, God chose her, and she believed in his word.

(~ *The Nativity Scene Conveys Hope*)

*He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.*



WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p data-bbox="212 120 390 151">December 3</p> <p data-bbox="65 224 533 560">In the Nativity scene there are ... shepherds, who represent the humble and poor who await the Messiah, the “consolation of Israel” (Lk 2:25), and the “redemption of Jerusalem” (2:38). In this Child they see the realization of the promises and hope that the salvation of God will finally arrive for each of them. (~ <i>The Nativity Scene Conveys Hope</i>)</p> <p data-bbox="79 691 520 824"><i>He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit.</i></p> 	<p data-bbox="709 120 888 151">December 4</p> <p data-bbox="562 224 1031 911">Hope is not a virtue for people with a full stomach. That is why the poor have always been the first bearers of hope. And in this sense, we can say that the poor, even beggars, are history’s protagonists. In order to enter the world, God needed them: Joseph, and Mary, the shepherds of Bethlehem. On the night of the first Christmas, the world was asleep, laying upon a bed of acquired certainties. But humble, hidden people were preparing the revolution of goodness. They were poor in everything; some remained afloat just above the subsistence level, but they had a wealth of the most valuable asset that exists in this world: that is, the desire for change. (~ <i>Demons of Noon</i>)</p> <p data-bbox="577 1000 1018 1101"><i>He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.</i></p> 	<p data-bbox="1209 120 1388 151">December 5</p> <p data-bbox="1062 224 1530 768">Hope has its enemies, just as any good in this world has its enemies. The ancient myth of Pandora’s box comes to mind. The opening of the box unleashes so many catastrophes in world history. Few people, however, remember the last part of the story that reveals a glimmer of light. After all the evils have come out of the open box, a tiny gift appears to turn the tables on all that evil that is spreading. Pandora, the woman who had the box in her custody, sees it at last: the Greeks call it <i>elpis</i>, which means “hope.” (~ <i>Pandora’s Box</i>)</p> <p data-bbox="1077 1000 1524 1133"><i>He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.</i></p> 	<p data-bbox="1707 120 1885 151">December 6</p> <p data-bbox="1560 224 2028 841">Hope is the force that drives the hearts of those who depart, leaving home, their homeland, at times their relatives and families - I am thinking of the migrants - in search of a better life, one which is worthier of them and their loved ones. And it is also the impulse in the heart of those who welcome: the desire to encounter, to get to know each other, to dialogue. Hope is the force that drives us “to share the journey” because the journey is made jointly by those who come to our land and by us who go toward their heart, to understand them, to understand their culture and their language. (~ <i>Pandora’s Box</i>)</p> <p data-bbox="1570 946 2028 1166"><i>He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children forever. Amen.</i></p> 

SUNDAY**December 7**

After the flame of hope is kindled in us, there can be times when it risks being extinguished by the worries, fears, and pressures of daily life. A flame needs oxygen to keep burning in order to grow into a great bonfire of hope. 'The gentle breeze of the Holy Spirit nurtures our hope, ...'

(~ *Feeding Hope with Prayer*)

*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.*

**MONDAY****December 8**

Hope is nurtured by prayer. Prayer preserves and renews hope. It helps fan the spark of hope into flame. "Prayer is the first strength of hope. You pray, and hope grows and moves forward" (Catechesis, May 20, 2020). Praying is like climbing to a mountaintop: from the ground, the sun can be hidden by clouds, but once we climb beyond them, its light and warmth envelop us. We see once more that the sun is always there, even when everything around us seems dark and dreary.

(~ *Feeding Hope with Prayer*)

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**TUESDAY****December 9**

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WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p data-bbox="205 121 401 151">December 10</p> <p data-bbox="69 219 525 423">...Mary appears, in the Gospels as a silent woman, who often does not understand all that is happening around her, but who contemplates each word and each event in her heart. (~ <i>Mother of Hope</i>)</p> <p data-bbox="81 860 525 992"><i>He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit.</i></p> 	<p data-bbox="701 121 896 151">December 11</p> <p data-bbox="562 219 1031 732">Sometimes, when you go out at night with your friends, you bring your smart phone and use it as a light. At huge concerts, thousands of you move these modern candles to the rhythm of the music; it is an impressive sight. At night, light makes us see things in a new way, and in the darkness a certain beauty shines forth. So it is with the light of hope which is Christ. From Jesus, from his resurrection, our lives take on light. With him, we see everything in a new light. (~ <i>Lighting the Torch of Hope</i>)</p> <p data-bbox="577 855 1020 956"><i>He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.</i></p> 	<p data-bbox="1203 121 1398 151">December 12</p> <p data-bbox="1064 219 1530 488">...when people would come to Saint John Paul II to speak with him about a problem, the first question he asked was: “How do you see this in the light of faith?” When we see things in the light of hope, they appear different. (~ <i>Lighting the Torch of Hope</i>)</p> <p data-bbox="1075 855 1524 992"><i>He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.</i></p> 	<p data-bbox="1698 121 1894 151">December 13</p> <p data-bbox="1560 219 2026 1005">Do not surrender to the night; remember that the first enemy to conquer is not outside: it is within you. Therefore, do not give space to bitter, obscure thoughts. This world is the first miracle God made. God has placed the grace of new wonders in our hands. Faith and hope go forward together. Believe in the existence of the loftiest and most beautiful truths. Trust in God the Creator, in the Holy Spirit who moves everything toward the good, in the embrace of Christ who awaits every man and woman at the end of their life. Believe - he awaits you. The world walks thanks to the gaze of many men and women who have opened up breaches, who have built bridges, who have dreamed and believed, even when they heard derisive words around them. (~ <i>Do Not Surrender the Night</i>)</p> <p data-bbox="1570 1086 2026 1304"><i>He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children forever. Amen.</i></p> 

SUNDAY

December 14

I would like to reflect with you on the figure of a woman who speaks to us about hope lived in tears. Hope lived in tears. This is Rachel, wife of Jacob and mother of Joseph and Benjamin: she who, as the Book of Genesis tells us, dies while giving birth to her second-born son, which is Benjamin.

The Prophet Jeremiah refers to Rachel as he addresses the Israelites in exile, trying to console them with words full of emotion and poetry; that is, he takes up Rachel's lament, but gives hope:

Thus says the Lord: "A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are not."
(Jer 31:15)

(~ *Rachel Does Not Want Consolation*)

*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.*



MONDAY

December 15

Youth is a time full of hopes and dreams, stirred by the many beautiful things that enrich our lives: the splendor of God's creation, our relationships with friends and loved ones, our encounter with art and culture, science and technology, our efforts to work for peace, justice and fraternity, and so many other things. We are living in a time, though, when for many people, including the young, hope seems absent. Sadly, many of your contemporaries who experience wars, violent conflict, bullying, and other kinds of hardship, are gripped by despair, fear, and depression. They feel as if they are in a dark prison, where the light of the sun cannot enter. A dramatic sign of this is the high rate of suicide among young people in different countries. In such situations, how can we experience the joy and hope of which Saint Paul speaks?
(~ *Life is Beautiful*)

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TUESDAY

December 16

And what are we? We are dust that aspires to the Heavens. Our strength is weak, but the mystery of the grace that is present in the life of Christians is powerful. We are faithful to this earth which Jesus loved every instant of his life, but we know, and we want to hope in the transfiguration of the world, in its definitive accomplishment where finally there will be no more tears, evil, or suffering. (~ *Dust That Aspires to Heaven*)

*He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.*



WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>December 17</p> <p>When in the Gospel Jesus sends the disciples on mission, he does not mislead them with mirages of easy success. On the contrary he warns them clearly that the proclamation of the Kingdom of God always involves opposition. And he also uses an extreme expression: “... and you will be hated - hated - by all for my name’s sake” (Mt 10:22). Christians love but they are not always loved. Jesus places us before this reality from the start. In a somewhat strong measure, the confession of faith occurs in a hostile climate. Christians are, therefore, men and women who go against the tide. (~ Hope, Strength of the Martyrs)</p> <p><i>He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit.</i></p> 	<p>December 18</p> <p>When we speak about hope, we can be led to interpret it according to the common meaning of the term, that is, in reference to something beautiful that we desire, but which may or may not be attained. We hope it will happen; it is as a desire. People say, for example, “I hope there will be good weather tomorrow!” But we know that there might be bad weather the following day. Christian hope is not like this. Christian hope is the expectation of something that has already been fulfilled; the door is there, and I hope to reach the door. What do I have to do? (~ The Helmet of Hope)</p> <p><i>He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.</i></p> 	<p>December 19</p> <p>We believe and we know that death and hate are not the final words pronounced on the arc of human existence. Being Christian entails a new perspective: a gaze full of hope. Some believe that life retains all its happiness in youth and in the past and that living is a slow deterioration. Still others hold that our joys are only fleeting episodes and that the life of mankind is bound in meaninglessness. There are those who, in the face of many calamities, say: “Life has no meaning. Our path is meaningless.” But we Christians do not think this. Rather, we believe that on mankind’s horizon there is a sun that shines forever. We believe that our most beautiful days are yet to come. We are people more of Spring than of Autumn. I would like to ask, now - each one answer in your heart, in silence, but respond - “Am I a man, a woman, a boy, a girl of Spring or of Autumn? Is my spirit in Spring or in Autumn?” (~ People of Springtime)</p> <p><i>He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.</i></p> 	<p>December 20</p> <p>The God who reveals himself to Abraham is the God who saves, the God who delivers from despair and from death, the God who calls into life. ... St. Paul helps us to focus on the extremely close bond between faith and hope. In fact, he states of Abraham that “in hope he believed against hope.” (Roman 4:18). ... Abraham believed and had hope against all hope. ... Great hope is rooted in faith, and for this very reason it is able to transcend all hope. ... because, it is not based upon our words, but on the Word of God. (~ Hoping Against Hope)</p> <p><i>He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children forever. Amen.</i></p> 

SUNDAY**December 21**

The closing pages of the Bible show us the ultimate horizon of our journey as believers: the heavenly Jerusalem, the celestial Jerusalem. It is envisioned first of all as an immense tent, where God will welcome all mankind so as to dwell with them definitively (Rev 21:3). This is our hope. And what will God do, when we are with him at last?
(~ *Make All Things New*)

*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.*

**MONDAY****December 22**

... there is a Father who weeps with us; there is a Father who sheds tears of infinite compassion for his children. We have a Father who knows how to weep, who weeps with us. A Father who awaits us in order to console us because he knows our suffering and has prepared a different future for us. This is the great vision of Christian hope, which expands over all the days of our life, and seeks to raise us up once more.
(~ *Make All Things New*)

*From this day all generations will call me blessed:
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and holy is his Name.*

**TUESDAY****December 23**

Jesus has given us a light that shines in the darkness: defend it; protect it. That single light is the greatest treasure entrusted to your life. And above all, dream! Do not be afraid to dream. Dream! Dream of a world which cannot yet be seen, but which will surely arrive. Hope leads us to believe in the existence of a creation which expands until the definitive fulfillment, when God will be everything in everyone. Men and women capable of imagination have given mankind the gifts of scientific and technological discoveries. They have sailed the oceans; they have tread on lands on which no one has ever set foot before. The men and women who have sown hope are also those who have conquered slavery and brought about better living conditions on this earth.
(~ *A Light in the Darkness*)

*He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.*

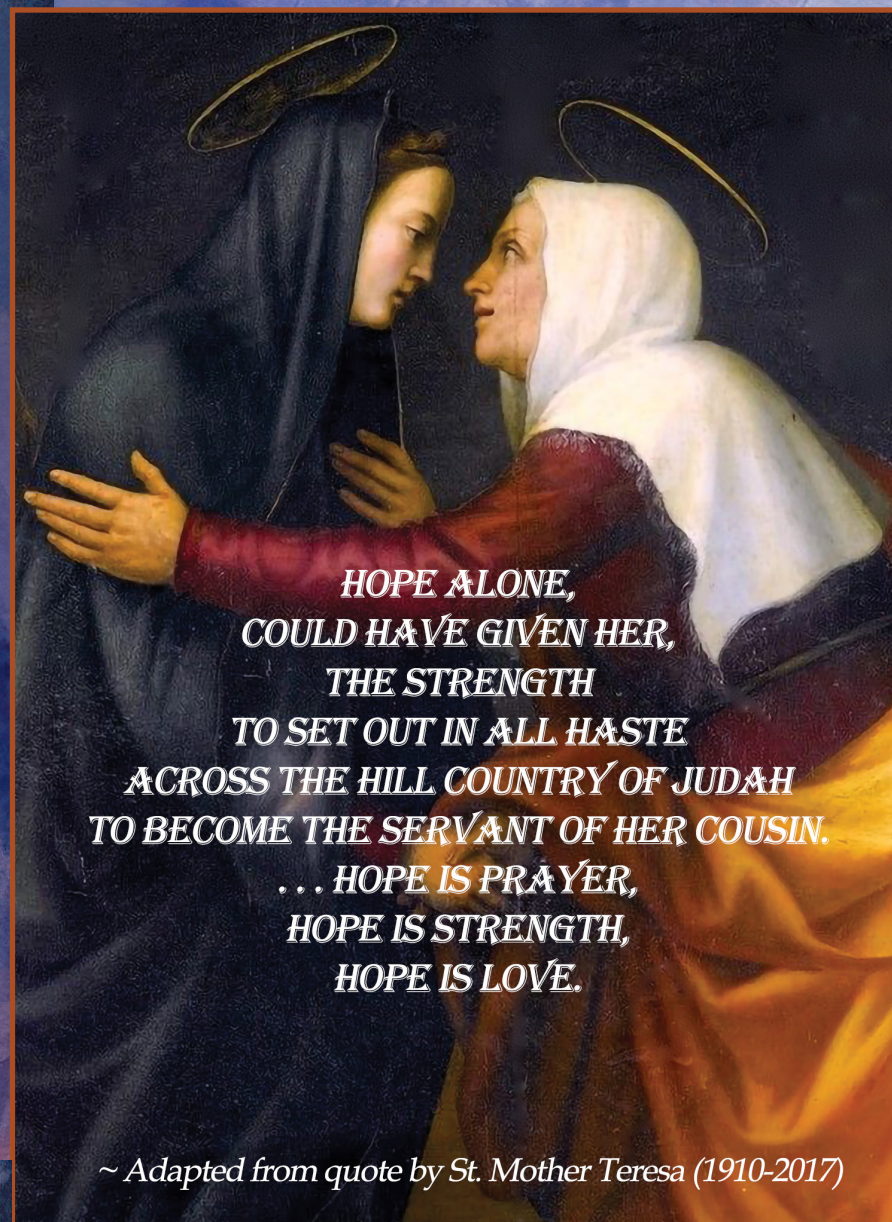


WEDNESDAY

December 24

Be responsible for this world and for the life of each person. Consider that every injustice against a poor person is an open wound and belittles your very dignity. Life does not stop at your existence, and other generations will come into this world to follow ours and still many others. Each day, ask God for the gift of courage. ... Always have the courage of truth but remember you are not superior to anyone. Always remember this: you are superior to no one. Even should you be the last one who believes in the truth, do not for this reason spurn the company of people. Even should you live in the silence of a hermitage, bear in your heart the suffering of every creature. You are Christian; and in prayer you offer everything to God. (~ *A Light in the Darkness*)

*He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.*



HOPE ALONE,
COULD HAVE GIVEN HER,
THE STRENGTH
TO SET OUT IN ALL HASTE
ACROSS THE HILL COUNTRY OF JUDAH
TO BECOME THE SERVANT OF HER COUSIN.
... HOPE IS PRAYER,
HOPE IS STRENGTH,
HOPE IS LOVE.

~ Adapted from quote by St. Mother Teresa (1910-2017)