

RELIGIOUS CALENDAR

APRIL 2026

Embracing the Calls of the 23rd General Chapter



"Accompany young people in their experience of faith and in the discernment of their vocation. Encourage them to become both prophets and instruments of evangelization to their own generation."
(WHEREVER YOU GO - RULE OF LIFE. 2019)

A Prayer for Our Earth

Earth Day - Wednesday, April 22nd

All-powerful God,
you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace,
that we may live as brothers and sisters,
harming no one.

O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty,
not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those
who look only for gain at the expense
of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*



APRIL 2026

Papal Intentions:

For priests in crisis.

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

1 WEDNESDAY Wednesday of Holy Week

Marist Anniversary:

(1939) The end of the Spanish Civil War in which 172 Marist Brothers shed their blood.

Intention:

For reconciliation in our world: that divisions within families, communities, and nations may give way to forgiveness, healing, and renewed relationships rooted in Gospel peace.

Reflection: Laudato Sí

There can be no renewal of our relationship with nature without a renewal of humanity itself. There can be no ecology without an adequate anthropology. When the human person is considered as simply one being among others, the product of chance or physical determinism, then “our overall sense of responsibility wanes”.

2 THURSDAY Holy Thursday

Anniversary:

Bro. Joseph Angus Wilkinson (1990)

Marist Anniversary:

(1939) Death of Br. Sixto José in Murcia as a result of physical abuse inflicted upon him by Spanish authorities.

Intention:

That we may follow the example of loving service that Jesus gave us when he washed the feet of his disciples.

Reflection: Call to Vocation – Builders of a Culture of Vocations (from the 5 Calls of the XXIII General Chapter 2025)

In this way, we generate, nurture and sustain the richness of all Marist vocations. This call invites us to a conversion of heart and mind” toward “a holistic and vibrant culture of vocations.

3 FRIDAY Friday of the Passion of the Lord - Good Friday

Anniversary:

Bro. Anthony Louis Masse (1970)

Bro. Roy William Mooney (2002) - Provincial of Poughkeepsie (1975-1981)

Bro. Richard Rancourt (2015)

Bro. Gregory Dela Noy (2016)

Marist Anniversary:

(1903) The French government notified Marist leaders of the Decree banning the Institute in that country, an action affecting about 600 schools. As a result of this government decree, many Marist Brothers left France to bring their Marist presence and ministry to countries throughout the world.

Intention:

For all who suffer, including the poor, the forgotten, victims of violence, and those carrying hidden crosses, that they may know Christ's closeness and find hope in His sacrificial love.

Reflection: Wherever You Go (2019)

A word of thanks to all who do manual work and carry out other tasks that support our Marist life and ministry. Your extraordinary service is an important part of our apostolate.

4 SATURDAY Holy Saturday

Birthday:

Bro. Benedict LoBalbo

Anniversary:

Bro. Vincent Colella (1977)

Bro. Timothy Mark O'Rourke (1988)

Marist Anniversary:

(1922) Approval of the Constitutions of the Marist Brothers by Pope Pius XI.

Intention:

For those living in grief, uncertainty, or waiting: that in the quiet hope of this sacred day, we may trust that God is at work even in silence, preparing new life where hope seems lost.

Reflection: Wherever You Go (2019)

The simplicity and generosity with which you perform your duties are a daily reminder to us of the true nature of our brotherhood. Rest assured that your life and efforts resonate loud and clear, challenging so many to reflect on the meaning of our fraternity.

5 SUNDAY

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Anniversary:

Bro. Henry Sammon (2023)

Bro. Paul Urban Phillipp (2025)

Intention:

For the Marist family and the whole world: that the Resurrection of Christ may renew our hearts with joy and send us forth as witnesses of hope, making Jesus known and loved through our lives.



Reflection: Wherever You Go (2019)

Ever faithful God, we are grateful in a special way for the charism received through Marcellin Champagnat. It has enriched the life of the Church and continues to do the same in the lives of so many Marists today.

6 MONDAY

Monday within the Octave of Easter

Marist Anniversary:

(1872) Marist Brothers who had arrived in Australia on February 28, 1872, opened St. Patrick's School in Sydney.

Intention:

That the joy of the Resurrection may renew the hearts of all Marists—Brothers, lay partners, and young people—and inspire us to continue making Jesus known and loved.

Reflection: Wherever You Go (2019)

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7 TUESDAY Tuesday within the Octave of Easter

Anniversary:

Bro. Augustine Thomas Thorogood (1956)

Bro. Reginald Theodore Laflamme(1988)

Bro. Oswald Ouellette (2010)

Bro. Robert Andrews (2020)

Marist Anniversary:

(1994) Start of the Rwandan Genocide in in which many of our Brothers, students, and their families were wounded or killed

Intention:

For our Marist schools and ministries, that the light of the Risen Christ may guide our work with young people and strengthen communities of faith, hope, and service.

Reflection: Wherever You Go (2019)

Thanks for the growing number of others called to be Marist, men and women called by the Spirit to live their Christian vocations as Marists, in communion with their brothers, and sharing together the one same mission.

8 WEDNESDAY Wednesday within the Octave of Easter

Birthday:

Bro. George DiCarluccio

Intention:

For those who are searching for meaning, healing, or hope, that the message of Easter may remind them that new life is always possible in Christ.

Reflection: Call to Spirituality – Builders of a Living Spirituality (from the 5 Calls of the XXIII General Chapter 2025)

In a world yearning for connection, healing, and hope, let us foster a transformative spirituality and journey together as brothers and sisters

9 THURSDAY Thursday within the Octave of Easter

Marist Anniversary:

(1883) Death of Rev. Bro. Nestor, 3rd Superior General, after only 3 years in office.

(1999) The creation of the Province of Southern Africa consisting of South Africa, Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Intention:

For new vocations among both Marist Brothers and Lay Marists who will respond generously to the call to serve the Church and young people in the spirit of St. Marcellin Champagnat.

Reflection: Wherever You Go (2019)

Grant us courage and generosity so that we may be signs of your mercy and tenderness among the poor young people of today. May we be faithful to our mission of making Jesus Christ known and loved.

10 FRIDAY Friday within the Octave of Easter

Birthday:

Bro. Kenneth Hogan

Anniversary:

Bro. Lawrence Michael Leclair (1991)

Intention:

For the poor, the marginalized, and those most in need, that the Resurrection may inspire us to be signs of compassion, solidarity, and justice.

Reflection: Builders of a New Hermitage - Message of the 23rd General Chapter

Marcellin's Hermitage was fragile and yet a project full of promise. Fragile, because it began with a small group of young men and few resources; full of promise, because it was sustained by God's promise and Mary's care. Our New Hermitage is called to be the same: weak if we rely only on our own strength but enduring if we trust in the Spirit and walk together as one family.

11 SATURDAY Saturday within the Octave of Easter

Intention:

For Mary, our Good Mother, to guide us as we continue to live the Easter message with humility, simplicity, and love in our daily lives.

Reflection: Wherever You Go (2019)

Brother, take heed as you set out on your journey and listen to Jesus who invites us to "Come and see" (Jn 1:39). Your call to brotherhood contains an element of mystery; accept it as a gift.

12 SUNDAY SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Intention:

That the mercy of the Risen Christ may heal our world and help us to become instruments of forgiveness, reconciliation, and peace. For our Marist Educators from around the Province who are attending the Sharing Our Call program in Esopus which starts today.

Reflection: Wherever You Go (2019)

Take on the attitude of a pilgrim each day and discover that the path that you trod transforms your way of looking at life and your understanding of it. Developing a contemplative outlook changes your perspective.

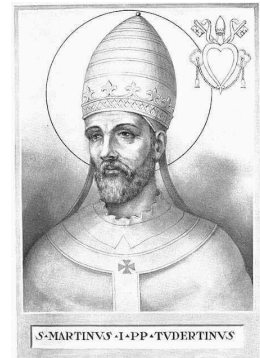
13 MONDAY Saint Martin I, Pope and Martyr

Intention:

For courage in faith, that like St. Martin I we may remain faithful to Christ even in the face of hardship or persecution.

Reflection: Laudato Sí

The creation accounts in the book of Genesis contain, in their own symbolic and narrative language, profound teachings about human existence and its historical reality. They suggest that human life is grounded in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships: with God, with our neighbour and with the earth itself. According to the Bible, these three vital relationships have been broken, both outwardly and within us.



14 TUESDAY Easter Weekday

Intention:

For those enduring religious persecution in various forms.

Reflection: Wherever You Go (2019)

His first disciples remembered well the Lord's call to "Come and see." In response, "they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon" (Jn 1:39).

15 WEDNESDAY Easter Weekday

Anniversary:

Bro. Joseph McAlister (2024)

Marist Anniversary:

(1844) Union of the Brothers of Viviers with our Institute. 31 Brothers made their vows as Marist Brothers.

(2000) The creation of the Province of West Central Europe, now a District, consisting of Belgium, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland and the Netherlands.

Intention:

For those who carry out Church ministry in highly secular contexts.

Reflection: Call to Community – Builders of Communion (from the 5 Calls of the XXIII General Chapter 2025)

Our community should become “a true home for all, embracing and caring for each other without exception” ... as we “let go of individualism and embrace a fraternal, life-giving way of living together.” To do this, we must “move from a ‘self-referential’ community to a prophetic one.

16 THURSDAY Easter Weekday

Birthday:

Bro. Joseph Yoshida (East Asia Province)

Anniversary:

Bro. James Gerard Dixon (1999)

Bro. James Brady (2002)

Marist Anniversary:

(1993) Presentation of the posito of Bro. Bernardo to the Congregations for the Causes of the Saints. He was murdered on October 6, 1934 at Barruelo.

Intention:

For all those working in the ministry of initial formation throughout our Marist Institute. For the students attending the Marist Youth Encounter which starts today in Esopus.

Reflection: Wherever You Go (2019)

The sacraments of baptism and confirmation welcome you into a new life in him, and invite you to walk by his side and to announce the Reign of God.

19 SUNDAY

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Anniversary:

Bro. Marie Aldericus Vassal (1940)

Bro. Leo Camille Sauron (1975)

Bro. Edward Michael Lavigne (1992)

Bro. Joseph Cerin Balet (1998)

Intention:

That the Risen Lord may open our hearts, as he did for the disciples, to recognize his presence in the Scriptures and the breaking of the bread.

Reflection: Wherever You Go (2019)

Authentic spirituality fosters personal integrity of life and opens you to communion. It awakens an awareness of the deep unity of all living beings and your interconnectedness with all creation. Commit yourself to maintaining global harmony, a source of life for our world. Develop a contemplative attitude toward the universe and protect the integrity of our common home: "and God saw that all created things were good" (Gn 1:31). Do so, not only for the sake of this generation, but for the children and young people of the future. Leave them a habitable planet, a world in better condition than the one that you received; let that be your legacy.

20 MONDAY

Easter Weekday

Anniversary:

Bro. Robert Teodulo Facin (1956)

Bro. Francis Gerard Dion (1993)

Marist Anniversary:

(1847) Bro. Jacinto (Hyacinthe Chatelet), one of the first Brothers sent to Oceania, was martyred at San Cristobal, (Solomon Islands) together with two Marist Fathers.

(1937) Blessed Bro. Domingo was martyred in Madrid, Spain.

(1955) Second exhumation and identification of the remains of Saint Marcellin Champagnat.

Intention:

For those gathered in Esopus for a workshop focused on the Black Madonna and the Marist Call to be the Marian Face of our Church.

Reflection: Wherever You Go (2019)

The anointing that you received at the time of your Christian initiation invites you to live out the mystery of your vocation as a brother (Mysterion); it is the foundation of your identity (cf R 4), a prophetic revelation about each person's value (cf R 5) and a sacrament of the presence of God, the true leaven of universal fraternity (cf R 6).

21 TUESDAY Saint Anselm, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Anniversary:

Bro. Joseph Belanger (2010)

Pope Francis (2025)

Marist Anniversary:

(1951) Bro. Joche Albert Li was executed by his Communist captors in Sichang, China. On this day we also remember several of our Chinese brothers who died on unknown dates as a result from persecution by the Communists, including:

*Bro. Jules Andre who died of hunger and exposure

*Bro. Augustin Liu who was beaten to death

*Bros. Antoine Xue, Marcellinus Yang, and Ernest Chang who died in labor camps

*Bro. Marie Xavier Chang who died in prison

*Bro. André Joseph Wei who was executed in 1975

Intention:

For theologians, teachers, and students, that the search for truth may always lead us closer to God, and for the Church in China and our Chinese Marist Brothers. For the Marists of Champagnat Lay Council meeting in Esopus today.

Reflection: Call to Governance and Leadership – Builders of Servant Leadership (from the 5 Calls of the XXIII General Chapter 2025)

“Inspired by the Church’s call to synodality, we promote a leadership approach founded on transparency, active participation, and shared responsibility.” This calls us to “reject dependency and individualism and choose shared responsibility.



22 WEDNESDAY EARTH DAY

Birthday:

Bro. John Kachinsky

Anniversary:

Bro. Matthew Snowden (2007)

Marist Anniversary:

(1994) Étienne Rwesa was martyred in Burundi.

(2007) Marist Brothers serving in Cambodia began the first Marist ministry in Vietnam.

Intention:

Let us pray for a greater awareness and care for our common home, the Earth.

Reflection: Laudato Deum

Jesus “was able to invite others to be attentive to the beauty that there is in the world because he himself was in constant touch with nature, lending it an attraction full of fondness and wonder. As he made his way throughout the land, he often stopped to contemplate the beauty sown by his Father, and invited his disciples to perceive a divine message in things”.



23 THURSDAY

Saint George, Martyr; Saint Adalbert, Bishop and Martyr

Anniversary:

Bro. Henry Firmin (1986)

Intention:

For those who defend justice and protect the vulnerable, that they may be strengthened by courage and faith and for missionaries and evangelizers, that they may proclaim the Gospel with dedication and joy.

Reflection: Wherever You Go (2019)

By engaging in a lifelong dialogue, you and God co-create the plan that evolves over the course of your days. At each stage of your journey, God proposes and, depending upon your response, suggests options for the next step, always seeking the one that will best help build God's Reign.



24 FRIDAY

Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest and Martyr

Intention:

For those who serve the Church in difficult places, that their witness may bring hope and faith to many. For students attending our Province's annual Earth Day gathering this weekend in Esopus.

Reflection: Wherever You Go (2019)

Let the gift of your vocation inspire you to proclaim with your life the words of Jesus in the synagogue at Nazareth: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me... to announce a year acceptable to the Lord." (Lk 4:18-19).



25 SATURDAY Saint Mark, Evangelist (Feast)

Marist Anniversary:

(1932) Marist Brothers from El Salvador began their ministry in Guatemala.

Intention:

For those who share the Gospel through preaching, writing, and media, that the Good News of Christ may reach every corner of the world.



Reflection: Wherever You Go (2019)

Your participation in this anointing of Jesus, makes evident the prophetic dimension of your vocation: by who you are as a brother you bear witness to the fact that, as children of the same Father, we are brothers and sisters to one another.

26 SUNDAY FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Anniversary:

Bro. Leon Clement Strugnell (1906)

Marist Anniversary:

(1872) Marist Brothers began their ministry in Ireland.

Intention:

For vocations to the Church and to the Marist mission, that many may generously follow Christ, the Good Shepherd.

Reflection: Wherever You Go (2019)

In making an offering of your life, you become a manifestation of the primacy of God's love. As that love becomes visible and tangible, your life is transformed into an effective sign of grace, a liturgy of love for God (cf Rm 12:1) that makes his presence visible among us.

27 MONDAY Easter Weekday

Anniversary:

Bro. Edmund Conrad Paradis (1966)

Intention:

For those who work to engage the modern world through their evangelization efforts.

Reflection: Wherever You Go (2019)

Within the ecclesial community, you are called to witness to and to celebrate the sacrament of brotherhood. Your vocation attests to the sacred character of the brother, a special vessel of God's presence in the world.

**28 TUESDAY Saint Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr;
Saint Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest**

Anniversary:

Bro. John Benedict Laroche (1985)

Bro. Michael Mullin (2008)

Marist Anniversary:

(1841) Saint Peter Chanel was martyred on the island of Futuna. He is the Patron Saint of the Church in Oceania, and as a Marist Father was the first Marist martyr.

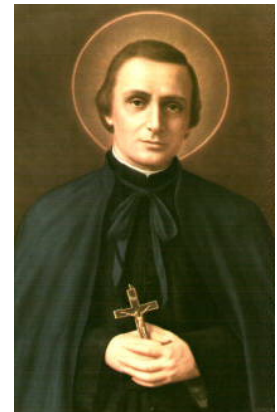
(1998) Return of our Brothers to Romania after having previously ministered there from 1909-1916.

Intention:

For missionaries around the world, that their service may plant seeds of faith and peace among all peoples, and for deeper devotion to Mary, that through her guidance we may grow closer to Jesus.

Reflection: Wherever You Go (2019)

Jesus dwells in you as you do in him. Within this simple and mutual indwelling, your covenant with the Lord is renewed each day. He calls you by name, leads you into the desert, speaks to your heart and entrusts you with the mission (cf Lk 4:18; Ex 3:10) of being a bridge between humanity and God's love.



29 WEDNESDAY Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church (Memorial)

Anniversary:

Bro. Denis Buckley (1999)

Marist Anniversary:

(1836) Pope Gregory XVI by the decree "Omnium Gentium" approved the Society of Marist Fathers and entrusted them with the missions of Western Oceania.

(1937) First foundation in Holland.

(1991) Brother Moisés Cisneros was assassinated in Guatemala.



Intention:

For those suffering from eating disorders, especially the young people in our ministries and for wisdom and courage within the Church, that we may boldly work for unity, renewal, and holiness.

Reflection: Call to Mission – Builders of Good News (from the 5 Calls of the XXIII General Chapter 2025)

Living this MISSION with boldness and hope commits us to be welcoming hearts, caring hands, and minds that create and develop a comprehensive and transformative education.

30 THURSDAY Saint Pius V, Pope

Birthday:

Bro. Daniel Grogan

Marist Anniversary:

(1965) Marist Brothers began their ministry in the Republic of Cameroon.



Intention:

For increased unity among the Christian churches, and for the Church's leaders, that they may guide God's people with humility, wisdom, and fidelity to the Gospel.

Reflection: Reflection: Builders of a New Hermitage - Message of the 23rd General Chapter

The New Hermitage is not a building of stone, nor is it tied to a single place. Like the Gier River, which gave life to Marcellin's dream, the New Hermitage moves with the Spirit. It flows wherever there is need, bringing refreshment to weary hearts, hope to young people, and fraternity to the whole world. It is built wherever Marists of Champagnat live with courage, simplicity, and love.