

RELIGIOUS CALENDAR

MAY 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)

*And Mary kept all these things,
reflecting on them in her heart. Luke 2:19*

Mary, the mother of Jesus, the mother of the Savior of the World, is properly called the "Mother of God." It is worth reflecting upon this powerful title of our Blessed Mother. And it's important to understand that this title says just as much about Jesus as it does about His Blessed Mother.



In calling Mary, the "Mother of God," we especially acknowledge one fact of human life. A mother is not just the source of one's flesh, she is not just the mother of the body of her children, she is the mother of that person. Being a mother is not just something biological, it is something sacred and holy and is part of the divine order of God's creation. Jesus was her Child and this Child is God. Therefore, it is proper logic to call Mary the "Mother of God."

It's an amazing fact to think about. God has a mother! He has a particular person who carried Him in her womb, nursed Him, raised Him, taught Him, loved Him, was there for Him, and pondered who He was throughout His life. This last fact is especially beautiful to look at.

The Gospel passage above says, "And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." And she did this as a caring mother. Her love for Jesus was as unique as the love of any mother. However, it should be noted that she was a mother in perfection and loved Him with a perfect love, He who was not only her Son, but was also God and was perfect in every way. What does this reveal? It reveals that the motherly love shared between Mary and Jesus was profound, inspiring, mysterious, glorious and truly sacred! The mystery of their love is worth reflecting on throughout our lives, keeping it fully alive in our hearts. She is an example for every mother and is also an example for all of us who seek to love others with a pure and holy heart.

Reflect, today, upon the holy and captivating relationship that Mary would have shared with her Divine Son. Try to fathom what this love would have been like. Imagine the deep emotion and passion that would have filled her heart. Imagine the level of unwavering commitment she would have had. Imagine the unbreakable bond that was forged as a result of her love.

Dearest Mother Mary, you loved your Divine Son with a perfect love. Your heart burned with an unquenchable fire of motherly charity. Your bond with Jesus was one that was perfect in every way. Help me to open my heart to that same love you share with me. Come be my mother and care for me as you cared for your Son. May I also love you with the love Jesus had for you and with the love He now lavishes upon you in Heaven. Mother Mary, the Mother of God, pray for us. Jesus, I trust in You.

MAY 2026

Papal Intentions:

That everyone might have food.

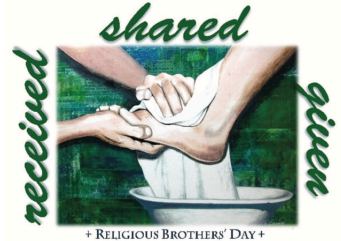
Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

1 FRIDAY

RELIGIOUS BROTHERS DAY

Saint Joseph the Worker

Saint Joseph's quiet fidelity, humility, and dedication to daily work reflect values that Saint Marcellin Champagnat admired deeply. Marists often look to Joseph as a model of simple faithfulness in ordinary tasks and service.



Anniversaries

Br. Marie Florentius Poisson (1938)

Marist Anniversaries

1825 – The community of La Valla settled into the house of Notre-Dame de L'Hermitage.

Prayer Intention

For God's blessing on all Religious Brothers and for participants in the Deepening Our Call gathering in Esopus.

Reflection - Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church

The life of the Brothers is a story of salvation for their contemporaries, especially for the poorest, and they are called to be bearers of the love that flows from the Father to the Son and from the Son to their brothers.

God of mercy and compassion,
thank you for the extraordinary life, witness, and ministry
of Religious Brothers in our Church.

In your wisdom, you have called these ordinary men to generously serve, pray,
and share your healing love with others.

As we prepare for our annual Religious Brothers Day, deepen our appreciation
for the vocation of Religious Brothers, their congregational charisms,
and their commitment to vowed community life.

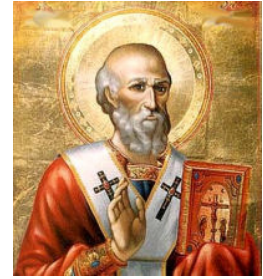
Strengthened by our baptismal call to holiness, inspire us to invite men
to consider religious life as a Religious Brother.

Grant all Religious Brothers the grace and perseverance they need to proclaim
your Holy Word for the life of our Church and our world. Amen.

2 SATURDAY *Easter Weekday*

Saint Athanasius

Athanasius' courage in defending the truth of Christ reminds Marists that faith sometimes requires perseverance in difficult circumstances. Champagnat encouraged the Brothers to remain steadfast in their mission, especially when serving young people in challenging environments.



Birthdays

Br. Robert Clark

Anniversaries

Br. James Thomas Vize (1924)

Marist Anniversaries

1818 – Brother Bartholomew joined the community at La Valla.

Prayer Intention

For our Superior General and the General Council and for all participating in the Deepening Our Call gathering.

Reflection - Laudato Si' – Pope Francis (No. 14)

All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to our culture, experience, involvement and talents.

3 SUNDAY **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

(Saints Philip and James)

Like the apostles who were sent to proclaim the Gospel, Marists see themselves as missionaries sent to young people. Champagnat founded the Brothers with the desire that they bring the Gospel to places where it was not yet known.



Marist Anniversaries

1840 – Fr. Champagnat celebrated the Eucharist at L'Hermitage for the final time.

Prayer Intention

For all who suffer from sickness throughout the world.

Reflection - Wherever You Go – Rule of Life (2019)

The first community of brothers was truly a family united by the fatherly love of Champagnat and their shared mission.

4 MONDAY *Easter Weekday*

Anniversaries

Br. Marie Clement Sabot (1939)

Prayer Intention

For the Saint Joseph Academy School Board as they meet today.

Reflection Wherever You Go – Rule of Life (2019)

Marcellin's vision of fraternity invites us to cultivate a family spirit marked by openness of heart, forgiveness, and support.

5 TUESDAY *Easter Weekday*

Anniversaries

Br. A. Louis Dubois (2009)

Marist Anniversaries

1873 – Founding of the first Marist school in New Caledonia.

Prayer Intention

For all spiritual directors serving the Church.

Reflection - Wherever You Go – Rule of Life (2019)

Strive to create an environment where each person receives encouragement and nourishment to grow.

6 WEDNESDAY *Easter Weekday*

Birthdays

Br. Peter Guadalupe

Marist Anniversaries

1818 – Gabriel Rivat (the future Br. François) came to live with Champagnat at La Valla.

1854 – Introduction of the vow of stability.

1949 – Arrival of the first Marist Brothers in Hong Kong.

Prayer Intention

For the Christopher Columbus High School School Board meeting today.

Reflection - Wherever You Go – Rule of Life (2019)

The Marian virtues of humility, simplicity, and modesty are lived through the “little virtues” of kindness, hospitality, and service.

7 THURSDAY *Easter Weekday*

Anniversaries

Br. Rudolph Xavier Foley (1966)

Br. Christopher Weiss (2002)

Marist Anniversaries

1871 – First Marist school opened in Samoa.

Prayer Intention

For the Provincial Council meeting in Chicago.

Reflection - Wherever You Go – Rule of Life (2019)

The little virtues recommended by Champagnat help us live the attitudes of Mary by doing ordinary things in extraordinary ways.

8 FRIDAY *Easter Weekday*

Anniversaries

Br. Rudolph Xavier Foley (1966)

Br. Christopher Weiss (2002)

Marist Anniversaries

1871 – First Marist school opened in Samoa.

Prayer Intention

For the Provincial Council meeting in Chicago.

Reflection - Wherever You Go – Rule of Life (2019)

The little virtues recommended by Champagnat help us live the attitudes of Mary by doing ordinary things in extraordinary ways.

9 SATURDAY *Easter Weekday*

Prayer Intention

For the promotion of causes of beatification and canonization in the Marist Institute.

Reflection - Wherever You Go – Rule of Life (2019)

Be patient as you discern your vocation and allow God's action in your life to unfold.

10 SUNDAY

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MOTHER'S DAY**



Prayer Intention

For all mothers and those who show us a mother's love, that they may be blessed with strength, peace, and joy as they nurture life, faith, and hope in their families and communities.

Reflection - Wherever You Go – Rule of Life (2019)

Be patient as you discern your vocation and allow God's action in your life to unfold.

11 MONDAY

Easter Weekday

Anniversaries

Br. Gabriel Vincent Barrett (1993)

Br. Michael Fisher (2019)

Marist Anniversaries

1840 – Fr. Champagnat received the last sacraments and blessed the Brothers.

Prayer Intention

For the Mount Saint Michael Academy School Board meeting today.

Reflection Wherever You Go – Rule of Life (2019)

Open your heart to new relationships and grow in knowledge of Jesus who calls you by name.

12 TUESDAY *Easter Weekday*

Birthdays

Br. Owen Ormsby

Anniversaries

Br. Louis Euthyme Desmarais (1959)

Br. Henry Bassus Beaulaigue (1975)

Br. Chanel Lambert (2012)

Prayer Intention

For our Brothers and ministry in Roselle, New Jersey as well as the young men from the University of Texas in Austin, who begin a Vocation Pilgrimage with Br. Rob Clark this week.

Reflection - Message of the 23rd 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.

13 WEDNESDAY *Easter Weekday*

Our Lady of Fatima

The message of Fatima emphasizes prayer, conversion, and trust in God—central elements of Marial spirituality. Marists strive to live close to Mary, following her example of listening to God and responding with humility and courage.

Anniversaries

Br. Leo Richard Morris (1995)

Prayer Intention

For our Brothers and ministry in Chicago.

Reflection - Laudato Si' – Pope Francis (84)

Our insistence that each human being is an image of God should not make us overlook the fact that each creature has its own purpose. None is superfluous. The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us.



14 THURSDAY Solemnity of the Ascension

Saint Matthias

Matthias' calling reminds us that God continues to call new disciples to serve the Church. The Marist vocation, like the apostles', is a response to Christ's invitation to bring hope and faith to the world.

Anniversaries

Br. Pius Victor Bellefeuille (1961)
Br. Joannes Marius Bergeron (1965)
Br. Claude Swallow (1965)
Br. Arthur Cloutier (1970)
Br. Linus William Hall (1987)
Br. Lucian Duguay (1999)
Br. James Kearney (2013)

Marist Anniversaries

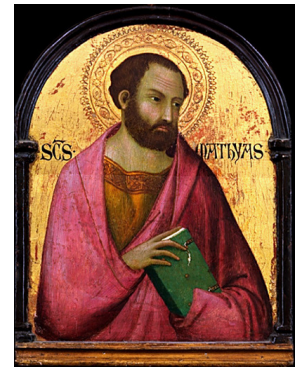
1864 – Brother Euloge was martyred in New Zealand.

Prayer Intention

For the Brothers and staff serving at the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus.

Reflection - Wherever You Go - Rule of Life (2019)

Open yourself without fear to God's love which is the source of every Christian vocation.



15 FRIDAY *Easter Weekday*

Saint Isidore

Isidore's life shows how holiness grows in the midst of ordinary work. Marists recognize that daily service—especially in schools, ministries, and communities—is a path to holiness.

Birthdays

Br. Lawrence Gordon

Anniversaries

Br. Alphonse Sylvain Pellerin (1960)

Prayer Intention

For the Brothers and ministry at Champagnat Hall in the Bronx.

Reflection - Wherever You Go - Rule of Life (2019)

Open yourself to the process of conversion of heart and personal growth.



16 SATURDAY

Easter Weekday

Prayer Intention

For our Blue Island community in Illinois.

Reflection - Wherever You Go – Rule of Life (2019)

Strive to know and value yourself while integrating the Marist charism into your life.

17 SUNDAY

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

(Ascension of the Lord)

The Ascension of the Lord celebrates the moment when the risen Jesus returned to the Father, forty days after the Resurrection. Before ascending, Christ entrusted his disciples with the mission to continue his work, proclaim the Gospel, and serve others in his name. The Ascension reminds us that although Jesus returned to the Father, he remains present with us through the Holy Spirit and calls us to carry his mission into the world.

Birthdays

Br. Richard Grenier

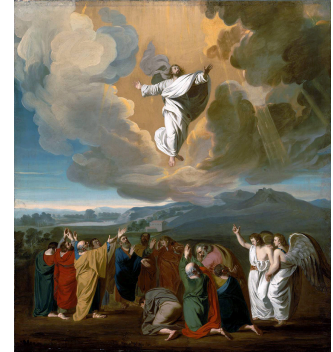
Br. Daniel O’Riordan

Prayer Intention

For a strong Marial spirituality in our lives.

Reflection - Wherever You Go – Rule of Life (2019)

Cherish silence and the interior life so that you may grow in intimacy with God.



18 MONDAY ***Easter Weekday***

Birthdays

Br. Samuel Amos

Marist Anniversaries

1840 – Champagnat’s Spiritual Testament was read to the Brothers.

Prayer Intention

For the Brothers and ministry at Archbishop Molloy High School.

Reflection - Laudato Si’ – Pope Francis (64)

It is good for humanity and the world at large when we believers better recognize the ecological commitments which stem from our convictions.

19 TUESDAY ***Easter Weekday***

Anniversaries

Br. Peter Raphael Revollon (1915)

Br. Stephen Martin Calvillo (1986)

Br. Adolphe Leo Labonte (2001)

Prayer Intention

For the Marist Brothers, Lay Marists, and ministries of the Arco Norte region.

Reflection Wherever You Go – Rule of Life (2019)

Give yourself wholeheartedly to living the vows joyfully.

20 WEDNESDAY *Easter Weekday*

Birth of Saint Marcellin Champagnat

Marcellin Champagnat was born on May 20, 1789, in the small hamlet of Le Rosey in Marllhes, France, and was baptized the following day in the parish church. Growing up during a time of great upheaval in France, Marcellin witnessed both the challenges facing the Church and the deep need for education and faith formation among young people. These experiences helped shape his conviction that young people needed compassionate educators who could help them come to know the love of Jesus.

Moved by this vision, Champagnat founded the Marist Brothers in 1817 with the mission of educating youth, especially those most in need. More than two centuries later, his spirit continues to guide Marist communities around the world as Brothers and Lay Marists carry forward his dream of making Jesus known and loved and of helping young people grow as “good Christians and good citizens.”

Saint Bernardine of Siena, Priest

Bernardine was known for preaching the Holy Name of Jesus with passion and clarity. His example echoes Saint Marcellin Champagnat’s desire that Marists “make Jesus known and loved.”

Birthdays

Br. Paul Forgues

Anniversaries

Br. Altin Wagner (1944)

Br. William Lee (1992)

Marist Anniversaries

1789 – Birth of Saint Marcellin Champagnat at Rosey, near Marllhes, France.

Prayer Intention

For the increased vitality of Marist Brother and Lay Marist vocations and in thanksgiving for the life of Saint Marcellin Champagnat.

Reflection Wherever You Go – Rule of Life (2019)

Your mission of helping aspirants, postulants, novices, and young brothers discern their vocation is crucial for the life of our Marist community.



21 THURSDAY *Easter Weekday*

Saint Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and Companions

These martyrs remind us that faith sometimes demands great courage. Marists serving around the world are called to stand with those who suffer and to witness to the Gospel even in difficult circumstances.

Anniversaries

Br. François Dorotheus Boyer (1961)

Br. Michael Kieran Kenny (1968)

Marist Anniversaries

1789 – Marcellin Joseph Benedict Champagnat was baptized in the parish church in Marllhes.

Prayer Intention

For the Archbishop Molloy High School School Board as they meet today and for all those discerning a vocation to religious life around the world.

Reflection Laudato Si' – Pope Francis (217)

Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.



22 FRIDAY *Easter Weekday*

Saint Rita of Cascia

Saint Rita's perseverance through suffering reflects the Marist spirit of humility and trust in God's providence. Her life encourages Marists to remain faithful even when ministry is challenging.

Birthdays

Br. Stephen Kappes

Anniversaries

Br. Sperat Joseph Beal (1958)

Prayer Intention

For FMSI, the Marist International Solidarity Foundation, and its work to assist those most in need throughout the world.

Reflection Message of the 23rd General Chapter (2025)

Through Mission, we extend our hands outward, building bridges of solidarity and presence, especially with those on the margins.



23 SATURDAY ***Easter Weekday***

Birthdays

Br. Dominick Pujja

Prayer Intention

For young people preparing for summer retreats, service programs, and the upcoming Marist Youth Gathering.

Reflection Wherever You Go – Rule of Life (2019)

In choosing to sit at this table, we help one another become the person God has called us to be and go forth to witness God's love for all people.

24 SUNDAY **PENTECOST SUNDAY**

Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit, who continues to guide the Church's mission. Marists rely on the Spirit's guidance as they accompany young people and build communities of faith.

Anniversaries

Br. Lawrence Hanshumaker (2000)

Marist Anniversaries

1961 – The General House of the Institute was transferred from France to Rome.

1994 – Deaths of Brothers Gaspard Gatari, Fabien Bisengimana, and Pierre Canisius Nyilinkinde in Rwanda.

Prayer Intention

For the Church throughout the world as we celebrate Pentecost, that the Holy Spirit may renew our communities with courage and wisdom. Let us also remember Province Affiliated Member, Fr. Richard LaMorte, who celebrates his 60th Jubilee of priesthood today with a special Mass in Esopus.

Reflection - Laudato Si' – Pope Francis (42)

Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect, for all of us are dependent on one another.

25 MONDAY *8th Week of Ordinary Time*

MEMORIAL DAY

Mary, Mother of the Church

Mary holds a central place in Marist spirituality. Saint Marcellin Champagnat entrusted the entire Institute to her care, seeing Mary as the first and perfect disciple of Christ.

Anniversaries

Br. William Menn (1984)

Marist Anniversaries

1975 – Death of Rev. Br. Leonida, seventh Superior General.

Prayer Intention

For those men and women who have sacrificed their lives for freedom and peace in our world.

Reflection - Wherever You Go – Rule of Life (2019)

Listen carefully to the Spirit who sends you into the lives of young people.



26 TUESDAY *8th Week of Ordinary Time*

Saint Philip Neri

Philip Neri's joyful spirit and pastoral creativity remind Marists that evangelization often happens through relationships, encouragement, and joy.

Birthdays

Br. Thomas Sulaimanee

Anniversaries

Br. Andre Celestin Thiollier (1955)

Br. Joseph Gregory Marchessault (1969)

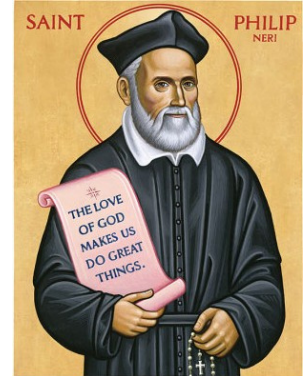
Br. William Lambert (2018)

Prayer Intention

For pastors and spiritual leaders, that their ministry may bring encouragement and hope to those they serve.

Reflection Message of the 23rd General Chapter

"God calls us today to live an incarnated [spirituality], centered on Jesus Christ, in the style of Mary and inspired by the bold and committed vision of Marcellin Champagnat."



27 WEDNESDAY **8th Week of Ordinary Time**

Saint Augustine of Canterbury

Augustine's missionary work in England reflects the Church's ongoing call to bring the Gospel to new places. Marists continue this missionary spirit by serving young people across cultures and countries.

Anniversaries

Br. Richard Sharpe (2015)

Marist Anniversaries

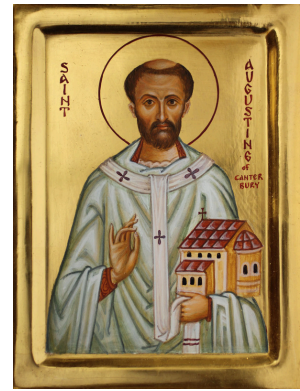
1903 – Definitive approbation of the Marist Brothers Constitutions by Pope Leo XIII.

Prayer Intention

For all who work for peace as well as those USA Marists of Champagnat who serve as Marist Voices on our Boards.

Reflection Laudato Si' – Pope Francis (233)

The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face.



28 THURSDAY **8th Week of Ordinary Time**

Anniversaries

Br. Marcellien Louis Delaarme (1951)

Br. Louis Sanctus Fuzet (1956)

Prayer Intention

For the Marist Youth Gathering beginning today and for all who help organize and lead it.

Reflection Wherever You Go – Rule of Life (2019)

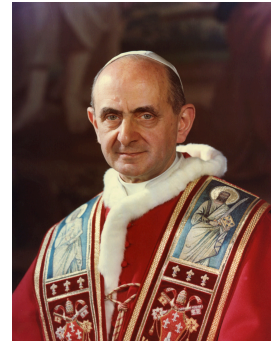
You are a gift of God and a sign of the love that Jesus and Mary have for our Institute.

29 FRIDAY

8th Week of Ordinary Time

Pope Saint Paul VI

Pope Paul VI helped guide the Church during a time of renewal after the Second Vatican Council. His emphasis on evangelization and dialogue resonates with the Marist commitment to education and accompaniment.



Anniversaries

Br. Marie Cephias Chabanel (1929)

Br. Linus Eugene Carroll (1993)

Marist Anniversaries

1955 – Beatification of Marcellin Champagnat in Saint Peter’s Basilica.

Prayer Intention

For young people participating in the Marist Youth Gathering this weekend.

Reflection Wherever You Go – Rule of Life (2019)

Like Mary, have a grateful heart and go forward each day trusting in the fidelity of God.

30 SATURDAY

8th Week of Ordinary Time

Marist Anniversaries

1955 – Foundation of the World Union of Marist Alumni.

Prayer Intention

For our senior Brothers, especially those living in care facilities.

Reflection Wherever You Go – Rule of Life (2019)

During the early years of apostolic life, be a sign of hope through your generosity and passion for mission.

31 SUNDAY

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mary's visit to Elizabeth reveals a spirit of service and presence—qualities that lie at the heart of Marist ministry. Like Mary, Marists seek to bring Christ to others through humble acts of care and encouragement.

Anniversaries

Br. Namese Barbier (1915)

Marist Anniversaries

1852 – Opening of the Second General Chapter of the Marist Brothers.

Prayer Intention

For our students, especially those facing difficult situations in their lives.

Reflection Wherever You Go – Rule of Life (2019)

As the years pass, experience deepens and you become more available to serve the Marist community and mission.

