



MARIST PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA

RELIGIOUS CALENDAR: DECEMBER 2023

POPE'S INTENSION

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

January 1.	Monday * SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD	Proper Office
<u>Liturgy:</u>	Numb 6, 22-27: <i>"May the Lord bless you ... and bring you peace"</i> Gal 4, 4-7: <i>"When the appointed time came, God sent his Son born of a woman"</i> Lk 2, 16-21: <i>"Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart"</i>	
<u>Reminder:</u>	Beginning of provincial Canonical Visitation to Koumra Community "New Year Day" and a "World Day of Prayer for Peace"	
Birthdays	Brother Gueradi Tour-hali Destin, 1991 from Chad	
<u>Reflection</u>	CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES OF MARIST BROTHERS As Religious Brothers in the Church, our vocation is to be prophetic reminders of the common dignity and fundamental equality of all the People of God. We are brothers of Jesus Christ, brothers to one another and brothers to everyone, especially the poorest and those most in need; brothers for a greater brotherhood in the Church and world. (No 2)	
<u>Intentions:</u>	For Marist communities in countries that are threatened by war and violence. For Br Destin, his family, good health and apostolate ➔ First Monday of the month: we pray for our deceased Brothers, relatives and benefactors.	
January 2	Tuesday of the Christmas season * MARIST FOUNDATION DAY	
<u>Liturgy</u>	1 Jn 2, 22-28: <i>"Keep alive in yourselves what you were taught in the beginning"</i> Jn 1, 19-28: <i>"one is coming after me who existed before me"</i>	
<u>Memorial</u>	Saints Basil and Gregory, bishops and doctors	
<u>Anniversary</u>	In 1817, Father Champagnat founded the Institute of the Marist Brothers in Lavalla with the first two postulants: Bro Jean-Marie and Bro Louis. 1923: Marist Foundation in El Salvador, Central America	
Birthdays	Brother Emmanuel T. Bongben, 1984 Brother Gregory Oppong, 1995	
<u>Reflection</u>	CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES OF MARIST BROTHERS: "The love which the Holy Spirit pours into our hearts gives us a share in the charism of Marcellin Champagnat and directs all our energies to this one aim: TO FOLLOW CHRIST AS MARY DID, in His life of love for the Father and for people. We live out this ideal in the community". (No 3)	
<u>Intentions:</u>	For Brother Bongben, his family, personal intentions, and apostolate For all the Brothers and Marist communities around the world	

January 3	Wednesday of the Christmas season	
<u>Liturgy</u>	1 Jn 2, 29 – 3, 6: “Anyone who lives in God does not sin” Jn 1, 29-34: “Look, there is the lamb of God”	
<u>Reflection</u>	CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES OF MARIST BROTHERS: “By contemplating Mary’s life in the Scriptures, we make her spirit our own. Her attitudes as mother and disciple of Jesus shape our spirituality, our fraternal life, and how we share in her work of bringing Christ-life to birth in the Church.”	
<u>Intentions:</u>	For a renewed presence of Mary in the Church and our Institute. For the staff members of the Marist Spiritual Centres.	
January 4	Thursday of the Christmas season	
<u>Liturgy</u>	1 Jn 3, 7-10: “He cannot sin when he has been begotten by God” Jn 1, 35-42: “We have found the Messiah”	
<u>Reminder</u>	Beginning of the African Religious Union of Ghana Congress in Sekondi-Takoradi	
<u>Reflection</u>	CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES OF MARIST BROTHERS: “In accordance with our motto: “All to Jesus through Mary, all to Mary for Jesus”, we make Mary known and loved as one who leads us to Him. We form a community around Mary, our Good Mother, as members of her family” <i>NO 3</i>	
<u>Intentions:</u>	For superiors of religious Institutes working in the African continent. For all the Brothers involved in the Vocations Ministry	
January 5	Friday of the Christmas season	Psalms: week 2
<u>Liturgy</u>	1 Jn 3,11-21: “We have passed out of death and into life because we love our brothers” Jn 1, 43-51: “You are the Son of God, you are the king of Israel”	
<u>Reminder</u>	End of Provincial Canonical Visitation to Koumra Community	
<u>Reflection</u>	CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES OF MARIST BROTHERS: “From Saint Marcellin Champagnat, we inherit the value of living the three virtues of humility, simplicity and modesty. Like him, we live in the presence of God, whom we encounter in the mysteries of the Crib, the Cross and the Altar. Inspired by the home of Nazareth and the table of La Valla, our fraternal life is marked by a “family spirit”, where love, forgiveness, mutual support, forgetfulness of self, openness to others and joy are found”. <i>NO 3</i>	
<u>Intentions:</u>	For civil and political leaders in the countries where we work For the provincial as he ends his visit in Chad ➔ First Vespers of the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord	
January 6	Saturday *	Proper office
<u>Liturgy</u>	1 Jn 5:5-13 The Spirit, the water, and the Blood. Mk 1:7-11 You are my beloved Son; with you, I am well pleased.	
<u>Anniversary</u>	1960: Marist Foundation in Sarawak, Indonesia	
<u>Reflection</u>	CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES OF MARIST BROTHERS: “Born of the Spirit, the mission Marcellin entrusted to his brothers was, “to make Jesus known and loved”. With other Marists, we give ourselves to the evangelization and education of children and young people, especially those who are poor, most in need, and living on the geographical and existential peripheries. Through our lives, and by our presence, these young people, their families and the communities to which they belong, come to know they are personally loved by God.”. <i>NO 4</i>	
<u>Intentions:</u>	For those who do not believe in Jesus and those who have lost their faith. For the community leaders in our province. ➔ Marist Saturday: specially dedicated to prayer for vocations	

January 7	SUNDAY THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – Year C	Proper Office
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Liturgy Is 60:1-6 “The glory of the Lord is rising on you”
 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 “It means that the pagans now share the same inheritance, they are part of the same body”
 Mt 2:1-12 “We saw his star as it rose and have come to pay him homage”

Memorial of St Raymond of Penyafort, Dominican priest, Co-founder of the Order of the Redemption of Captives, promoter of dialogue with Muslims. (13th century)

Reminder Courtesy Visito f Provincial to the Bishop of Ndjamená by superior and Chadian brothers.

Reflection **CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES OF MARIST BROTHERS:**
 “The Institute is made up of brothers with temporary and perpetual vows. We become members by our public religious profession. As brothers, we are united by fraternal love and by obedience to living by our Constitutions. The novices, who are beginning their life in the Institute, benefit from our spiritual patrimony, prayer and fraternal support” *NO 5*

Intentions: For peace, justice and reconciliation in African countries
 For the bishops in the countries where we work.

January 8	Monday The Baptism of Lord	Psalms: week 1
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Liturgy Is 42:1-4, 6-7 “this is my servant in whom my soul delights”
 Acts 10:34-38 “God has anointed him with the holy spirit”
 Mtt3:13-17 “As son as Jesus was baptised he saw the Spirit of God coming down on him”

Reminder End of meeting of African Religious Union of Ghana in Sekondi-Takoradi

Reflection **CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES OF MARIST BROTHERS:**
 “We acknowledge and welcome the many people who are attracted to the Marist charism and who identify themselves as being ‘Marist’. This movement of the Spirit unites all Marists of Champagnat into a global charismatic family. Within this charismatic family, we brothers willingly contribute the richness of our consecrated lives by building communion, providing accompaniment, sharing our spirituality and community life, participating in joint formation and solidarity works, and promoting co-responsibility for Marist life and mission.” *NO 6*

Intentions: For the grace to leave out our Marist call with enthusiasm
 For all the Brothers working in Cameroon

January 9	Tuesday of the first week in Ordinary Time	Psalms: week 1
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Liturgy 1 Sam 1:9-20 “The Lord was mindful of Hannah and she gave birth to Samuel”
 Mk 1:21-28 “He taught them with authority”

Anniversary: In 1863, approval of our Institute by Pope Pius IX

Reflection **CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES OF MARIST BROTHERS:**
 “Religious consecration unites us in a special way to the Church and its mystery. As members of the People of God and of our charismatic family, we give prophetic and joyous witness to a life wholly dedicated to God and to humanity. Faithful to the charism of the Institute, we collaborate in the pastoral mission of the local Church.” *NO 9*

Intentions: For our Holy Father, Pope Francis and all his intentions.
 For all the Brothers of our province

January 10	Wednesday of the first week in Ordinary Time	Psalms: week 1
<u>Liturgy</u>	1 Sam 3:1-10, 19-20 "Speak Lord your servant is listening" Mk 1:29-39 "He cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind of another"	
<u>Anniversary:</u>	In 1949, the Acts of the Diocesan Process concerning Brother Crisanto and his companions martyred in Spain, were taken to Rome. 1838, Arrival of the first Marist Missionaries to New Zealand	
<u>Reflection</u>	CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES OF MARIST BROTHERS: "Like Marcellin Champagnat, we have a deep respect and love for the Pope, whom, by obedience, we recognise as our highest authority. We express our faith and contribute to the unity of Christ's Body by striving to live in accordance with the Magisterium of the Church." <i>NO 9</i>	
<u>Intentions:</u>	For peace, love and understanding in families For the Brothers working in Liberia	
January 11	Thursday of the first week in Ordinary Time	Psalms: week 1
<u>Liturgy</u>	1 Sam 4:1-11 "Israel was defeated and the ark of God was captured" Mk 1:40-45 "The leprosy left him and he was cured"	
<u>Reflection</u>	CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES OF MARIST BROTHERS: "As Saint Marcellin expressly wished, our fraternal love extends to all other Religious Institutes. We share a special bond of unity with the other branches of the Marist family. Together, we contribute to being a Marian face of the Church to the world. We support, collaborate and act in solidarity with other Religious Institutes, especially other Religious Brothers with whom we have much in common." <i>NO 10</i>	
<u>Intentions:</u>	For handicapped children and those caring for them. For the Marist Mission Commission in Africa and at the Institute level	
January 12	Friday of the 1st week in Ordinary Time	Psalms: week 1
<u>Liturgy</u>	1 Sam 8:4-7, 10-22 ^a "You will cry out on account of the King you have chosen for yourselves, but God will not answer you" Mk 2:1-12 "The son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins"	
<u>Anniversary:</u>	1993: arrival of the first Brothers to Koumra, Chad	
<u>Reflection</u>	CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES OF MARIST BROTHERS: "Our Institute, a gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church, is a grace forever relevant to the world. Our simple and fraternal communities are a call to live according to the spirit of the Beatitudes. The witness of our brotherhood and our fraternal service reveals to everyone the meaning of human existence, and encourages those around us, particularly young people, to build a more just society» <i>NO 11</i>	
<u>Intentions:</u>	For catechumens and their catechists preparing them for the various sacraments. For the Brothers working in Chad	
January 13	Saturday of the 1st week in Ordinary Time	Psalms: week 1
<u>Liturgy</u>	1 Sam 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1 ^a "The Lord told Samuel, that is the man of whom i told you, Saul shall rule my people" Mk 2:13-17 "I did not come to call the virtuous, but sinners"	
<u>Memorial</u>	of St Hillary, bishop and doctor of the Church. He was converted to the Christian faith by reading the Prologue to the Fourth Gospel.	
<u>Reflection</u>	CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES OF MARIST BROTHERS: « Our Constitutions, approved by the Holy See, guide us in our way of living as brothers in the Church, and in carrying out the mind and heart of our Founder. We look upon them as the Gospel interpreted for us, and a sure guide in accomplishing God's will. By	

our religious profession, we have committed ourselves to live by them. Attentive to the richness and the calls that lie within, we frequently read them in a spirit of prayer and discernment.» *NO 12*

Intentions: For dialogue and respect among the main religions of the world.
For the Brothers working in Ghana
➔ Marist Saturday: specially dedicated to prayer for vocations.

January 14	SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Year B	Psalms: week 2
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Liturgy 1 Sam 3:3b-10, 19 "Speak Lord your servant is listening"
1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20 "Your bodies are members making up the body of Christ"
Jn 1:35-42 "They saw where he lived, and stayed with him"

Reflection **CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES OF MARIST BROTHERS:**
"God holds out the promise of life for all humanity: for this purpose, we are called to be participants and partners in the mission of God. He calls each of us by name, leading us into the desert, and there speaks to our hearts. His Spirit does not cease to work within us, ever deepening our conversion and growth in love so as to entrust us with His mission. In this is the source of our consecration, a covenant of love in which God gives Himself to us, and we to God." *NO 13*

Intentions: For respect for Human Right.
For greater understanding and appreciation of the Brothers' vocation in the Church.

January 15	Monday of the 2nd week in Ordinary Time	Psalms: week 2
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Liturgy 1 Sam 15:16-23 "Obedience is better than sacrific. The Lord has rejected you as king"
Mk 2:18-22 "The bridegroom is with him"

African Saint: St Paul, Egyptian hermit and founder of Monastic life in Thebes, (4th century)

Anniversary: 1925: Marist work began in Venezuela

Reflection **CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES OF MARIST BROTHERS:**
"In response to the loving action of God that consecrates us as Religious Brothers, we offer ourselves to Him through the profession of the public vows of chastity, obedience and poverty. Following in the footsteps of Jesus we want to continue His mission and be a sign of brotherhood for our world. Our consecration has its roots in our Baptism and expresses our desire to live wholly for God and for others." *NO 14*

Intentions: For people suffering from famine and drought.
For the Norandina Province made up of Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador

January 16	Tuesday of the 2nd week in Ordinary Time	Psalms: week 2
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Liturgy 1 Sam 16:1-13 "Samuel anointed David where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized David"
Mk 2:23-28 "The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the sabbath"

Reflection **CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES OF MARIST BROTHERS:**
Through our profession of public vows, made in total freedom before the Church community and accepted by the Major Superior, we commit ourselves to live by the Constitutions of the Institute. The Institute, in turn, accepts us as members and provides us with the means of growing in our life and mission as brothers." *NO 15*

Intentions: For the NGO's that are working in solidarity projects of development
For the Marist novices and postulants of our Province.

January 17	Wednesday of the 2nd week in Ordinary Time	Psalms: week 2
<u>Liturgy</u>	1 Sam 17:32-33, 37, 40-51 "David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone" Mk 3:1-6 "Is it against the law on a sabbath day to save life?"	
<u>African Saint</u>	St Anthony, abbot, founder of monastic life in the desert of Egypt (4 th century). He was a young man of 20 when he heard these words in the church: "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you want, give it to the poor..." He took them to heart, went to the desert where he lived for over a century.	
<u>Anniversary</u>	1838: Fr Champagnat traveled to Paris to obtain legal authorization for his Congregation	
<u>Reflection</u>	CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES OF MARIST BROTHERS: "Consecrated as Religious Brothers, we are sent to "make Jesus Christ known and loved", especially to children and young people most in need. Our ministry, conducted in union with the Church, forms part of the identity of our Marist religious family." <i>NO 16</i>	
<u>Intentions:</u>	For all those in charge of the administration of temporal goods. For all our workers and their families	
January 18	Thursday of the 2nd week in Ordinary Time	Psalms: week 2
<u>Liturgy</u>	1 Sam 18:6-9; 19:1-7 "My father Saul is looking for a way to kill you" Mk 3:7-12 "The unclean spirit would shout, you are the son of God. But he warned them strongly not to make him known"	
<u>Birthday</u>	Br CYPRIAN GANDEEBO (1961) from Ghana	
<u>Reflection</u>	CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES OF MARIST BROTHERS: "Faithful to Marcellin Champagnat and the example of the first brothers, we dedicate ourselves with passion to the mission entrusted to us. We ensure that our ministry always flows from our intimate union with God and that it strengthens and promotes this union. Our call to be mystics and prophets gives a particular shape to our lives. This is one of the gifts with which consecrated life enriches the Church." <i>NO 17</i>	
<u>Reminder</u>	Beginning of the Octave of prayers for Christian Unity	
<u>Intentions:</u>	In thanksgiving for Bro Cyprian's life and his vocation, and his family and his mission. For those who have asked for our prayers.	
January 19	Friday of the 2nd week in Ordinary Time	Psalms: week 2
<u>Liturgy</u>	1 Sam 24:3-21 "I will not raise my hand against him, for he is the anointed of the Lord" Mk 3:13-19 "He summoned those he wanted to be his companions"	
<u>Anniversary</u>	1959: First foundation in Papua New Guinea, Pacific	
<u>Reflection</u>	CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES OF MARIST BROTHERS: "Through our consecration we choose to devote the whole of our human existence to the following of Christ. Our consecrated celibacy for the sake of the Reign of God is a reminder of the resurrection to come and of the covenant of love between Christ and His Church." <i>NO 18</i>	
<u>Intentions:</u>	For the bishops and priests with whom we collaborate For our Brothers in Papua New Guinea and other islands of the Pacific.	
January 20	Saturday of the 2nd week in Ordinary Time	Psalms: week 2
<u>Liturgy</u>	2 Sam 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27 "How did the heroes fall in the thick of the battle" Mk 3:20-21 "His relatives said he was out of his mind"	
<u>Memorial</u>	of the Pope St Fabian, martyr (3rd century) and of St Sebastian, a soldier who	

chose Christ over the emperor (4th century).

Reflection

CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES OF MARIST BROTHERS:

“In following the chaste Jesus, we promise to live with an undivided heart, observing perfect continence as a celibate. We live this gift as an experience of God’s tender love for us personally, and, at the same time, we feel impelled by a universal love, to be weavers of the fabric of community through the witness of our brotherhood, a sign of the Reign of God.” *NO 19*

Intentions:

For peace in all African countries that suffer from war.

For the Brothers working in Côte d’Ivoire

➔ Marist Saturday: specially dedicated to prayer for vocations

January 21	THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Year B	Psalms: week 3
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Liturgy

Jon 3:1-5, 10 “The people of Nineveh renounced their behaviour”

1 Cor 7:29-31 “The world as we know it is passing away”

Mk 1:14-20 “Repent and believe the Good News”

Memorial

of St Agnes, virgin and martyr. The martyrdom of this young girl aged between 13 and 15, has been an inspiration ever since her death in the 4th century.

Anniversary

1952: Marist work started in Rwanda

1996: Death of Brother Basilio Rueda, 9th Superior General (1967-1985). Recently, the General Council has approved the introduction of his cause of beatification.

Reminder

Today is Martin Luther King Day

Reflection

CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES OF MARIST BROTHERS:

“Our community is the most immediate place where this universal love to which we aspire becomes real and grows. The love we have for our brothers is simple, friendly, and attentive to affirming their strengths and recognizing their difficulties. We humbly share their joys and generously give ourselves to all. This same love is expressed in the welcome we offer to those who visit us.” *NO 20*

Intentions:

For the end of all types of discrimination in our society

In thanksgiving for the gift of our vocations

January 22	Monday of the 3rd week in Ordinary Time	Psalms: week 3
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Liturgy

2 Sam 5:1-7, 10 “You shall be shepherd of my people Israel”

Mk 3:22-30 “It is the end of satan”

Memorial

of St Vincent, deacon and martyr. Together with deacons Stephen and Lawrence, they are the noble ancestors of our present permanent deacons and catechists.

Anniversary

1881: Death of Brother François Rivat, 1st Superior General between 1840 and 1860

Reflection

CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES OF MARIST BROTHERS:

“A fraternal life that is rich, warm and open-hearted, helps us in our personal growth and in the maturing of our chastity. At times when loneliness weighs heavily on us, we rely on the sensitive support and encouragement of our brothers. Their friendship brings joy to our hearts and fosters our emotional balance. A spirit of faith and mutual trust smooth the path to openness, dialogue, and even to challenging one another.” *NO 21*

Intentions:

In thanksgiving to God for all our students and pupils.

For the different commissions working in our Province

January 23	Tuesday of the 3rd week in Ordinary Time	Psalms: week 3
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Liturgy

2 Sam 6:12b-15, 17-19 “David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with acclaim”

Mk 3:31-35 “Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my brother and sister and mother”

Reflection

CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES OF MARIST BROTHERS:

“Like Jesus, we learn to love and to let ourselves be loved, so as to grow in a chastity that is life-giving and adult. We adopt a positive approach to the renunciations common to human existence and to those that are particular to our way of life. We gradually purify the impulses of our ego that hinder us from loving in a selfless manner. We learn to accept and integrate the limitations and wounds of our personal history, and to face up to the challenges of the different stages of life.” NO 23

Intentions:

For all the lay staff in the schools where we work
For Brother Provincial and his council

January 24	Wednesday of the 3rd week in Ordinary Time	Psalms: week 3
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Liturgy

2 Sam 7:4-17 “Your house and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me”

Mk 4:1-20 “Imagine a sower going out to sow”

Memorial

St Francis de Sales, bishop and doctor. He related well to Protestants and Catholics, and gave much spiritual guidance to the laity. Founder

Anniversary

1923: Marist work begun in El Salvador

Reflection

CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES OF MARIST BROTHERS

“A spirituality of discernment lies at the heart of the evangelical counsel of obedience. Indeed, contemplation of Jesus in the gospels is the essential discipline that makes genuine decision-making possible. It schools our hearts and guides us to decisions that bring us closer to God. A habit of personal prayer helps us to come to know Jesus and to make our own his way of discerning and making decisions” NO 25

Intentions:

For the independent Christian Churches in Africa
For the Brothers of the General Council and their mission

January 25	Thursday * FEAST OF THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL	Proper office
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Liturgy

Acts 22, 3-16: “The God of our ancestors has chosen you; you are to be his witness”

Mk 16, 15-18: “Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation”

Reminder

Beginning of CSAC Annual General Meeting in Lilongwe, Malawi

Reflection

CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES OF MARIST BROTHERS:

“Spiritual indifference is an essential ingredient in the exercise of this evangelical counsel. True discernment requires us to develop a disposition of total detachment from anything or anyone that might hinder our ability to hear the Word of God. With the help of grace and ascetical practices, what God wants from us and what we want eventually become one and the same: God’s will becomes our will.” NO 26

Intentions:

For the staff and student Brothers at MIC, Nairobi
For all the African provincial leaders.

January 26	Friday of the 3rd week in Ordinary Time	Psalms: week 3
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Memorial

Saints Timothy and Titus, bishops, companions of St Paul. Two letters to Timothy and one to Titus are in the New Testament.

Liturgy

2 Tim 1, 1-8: “You are never to be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord”

Lk 10, 1-9: “The harvest is rich, but the labourers are few”

Reflection

CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES OF MARIST BROTHERS:

“The evangelical counsel of obedience lived in a spirit of faith and love in the following of Christ, obliges us to obey the Superiors of the Institute when they give an order in conformity with the Constitutions.” No 27

Intensions: For all those who are suffering because of discrimination of all kinds.
For all our loved ones and their positive intentions.

January 27	Saturday of the 3rd week in Ordinary Time	Psalms: week 3
<u>Liturgy</u>	2 Sam 12:1-7a, 10-17 "I have sinned against the Lord" Mk 4:35-41 "Who can this be, even the sea and the wind obey him"	
<u>Memorial</u>	of St Angela Merici, foundress of the Ursuline Sisters in the 16th century. She is one of the pioneers in girls' education.	
<u>Reflection</u>	CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES OF MARIST BROTHERS: "On our journey of discerning and following God's will, we freely accept mediation from several sources. By reason of this vow, we owe obedience to the Pope, the hierarchy of the Church, our Superiors, and to our Constitutions and Chapters. We are all heirs of the Founder's charism, and so the practice of personal and community discernment and of fraternal dialogue assist us in listening to the voice of God for the good of our community life and mission." No 28	
<u>Intensions:</u>	For education and promotion of girls and women around the world. For the grace to always be conscious of our weaknesses. ➔ Marist Saturday: specially dedicated to prayer for vocations	

January 28	SUNDAY of the 4th week in Ordinary Time Year B	Psalms: week 4
<u>Liturgy:</u>	Deut 18:15-20 "I will raise up a prophet and I will put my words into his mouth" 1 Cor 7:32-35 "An unmarried woman can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy" Mk 1:21-28 "He taught them with authority"	
<u>Memorial</u>	St Thomas Aquinas, Dominican priest and doctor. He dedicated his brilliant talents to investigating the sublime truth of God in the light of faith and the human intellect. He is patron of all Catholic schools.	
<u>Anniversary</u>	1947: Marist work begun in Portugal	
<u>Birthdays</u>	Br Gilbert Ndim, 1979	
<u>Reflection</u>	CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES OF MARIST BROTHERS: "In His love for humanity, Christ, although rich, emptied Himself to become poor. He invites us to become one with Him in His poverty. Out of love for Jesus, we follow in His footsteps and learn from Him how to live our vow of poverty fully by sharing everything in common, in a spirit of joyful and generous detachment." No 29	
<u>Intensions:</u>	for Br Gilbert, his personal intentions, his family and apostolate. For theologians and Christian writers. For the Compostela Province to which Portugal belongs	

January 29	Monday of the 4th week in Ordinary Time	Psalms: week 4
<u>Liturgy</u>	2 Sam 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13 "Let us fly or we shall never escape Absalom" Mk 5:1-20 "Come out of that man, unclean spirit"	
<u>Anniversary</u>	1992, the Marist work started at Honduras, Central America	
<u>Reflection</u>	CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES OF MARIST BROTHERS: "We live personal and community poverty by adopting a simple lifestyle. We avoid consumerist attitudes and we use natural resources responsibly. We value the small things of life and feel in solidarity with all of creation. We are serious about our commitment to care for the earth, which is our common home." No 30	
<u>Reminder:</u>	World day of fighting against leprosy	
<u>Intensions:</u>	For all those involved in Vocations Ministry in our province For all the Brothers of the Iberian Province.	

January 30	Tuesday of the 4 th week in Ordinary Time	Psalms: week 4
<u>Liturgy</u>	2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3 “My son Absalom, would i had died in your place” Mk 5:21-43 “Little girl i tell you get up”	
<u>Reflection</u>	‘Marist Apostolic Mission’ of Bro Seán Sammon: “Through the evangelical counsel of poverty, we commit ourselves to live poorly, in fact as well as in spirit, striving to be moderate, and detached from earthly riches. We renounce the use and disposal of money, or of any other material goods of value, without the proper authorization. We can retain ownership of goods, the capacity to acquire others, and add any resulting profits to our patrimony. We relinquish the administration to others. With the permission of the Superiors, we can renounce our patrimony”. <i>No 33</i>	
<u>Reminder</u>	1948, Mahatma Gandhi, martyr of no-violence, was assassinated.	
<u>Intentions:</u>	For the end of terrorism and violence For the Brothers of Southern Africa and Madagascar	

January 31	Wednesday of the 4 th week in Ordinary Time	Psalms: week 4
<u>Liturgy</u>	2 Sm 24:2, 9-17 “It was i who sinned, taking a census of the people. But these, this flock, what have they done” Mk 6:1-6 “A prophet is only despised in his own country”	
<u>Memorial</u>	St John Bosco, priest in Northern Italy in the 19th century. A born educator, effective organizer, prolific writer, he trusted in God and Mary and accomplished wonders. He founded the Salesians men and women to care for the young.	
<u>Reminder</u>	End of CSAC Annual General Meeting in Lilongwe, Malawi	
<u>Reflection</u>	CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES OF MARIST BROTHERS: “The love that God pours into our hearts bears fruit in three key aspects of our lives as brothers: our fraternal relationships in community, Marist apostolic spirituality, and our ministry in the service of the Church. These are essential aspects of the dream of Marcellin, and the brothers who followed him, that we seek to live in an integrated way as a coherent and fruitful response. They complement one another and together lead to greater maturity and integrity in our lives”. <i>No 34</i>	
<u>Intentions:</u>	For all Salesians, priests, brothers and sisters and their youth ministry For the Brothers of Nigeria and Central East Africa	