



MARCH 25, 2025 - ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD PATRONAL FEAST OF THE MARIANIST FAMILY

The Marianist Charismatic Family

Dear members of the Marianist Family,

It is with immense joy that we turn to you to celebrate our patronal feast together. This date, which commemorates the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, offers us a privileged occasion to reflect on our identity, our charism and our shared mission.

March 25 is a day that calls us to renew our commitment to the values that identify us as a spiritual family, a family called to live and transmit the faith in a Marian style. It is also a time to give thanks for the gift of belonging to this great charismatic family and to strengthen the bonds of fraternity that unite us.

Thus, we invite you to observe this date actively. May this day be an opportunity to renew our covenant with Mary, strengthen our community life and rekindle our commitment to the mission.



Madonna and Child, St. John and angels
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May Mary, our Mother and Guide, intercede for each one of us and accompany us on our journey as a Marianist Family. United in faith and love, let us continue to build together the Kingdom of God.

The Marianist Charismatic Family

The emergence of numerous charismatic families in the Church is an evident sign of the action of the Holy Spirit. These families are born of specific charisms, gifts that the Spirit grants to respond to the needs of humanity at different moments in history. Each charism is an expression of the creativity and generosity of the Spirit, manifested in individual persons, communities and concrete projects.

In a charismatic family, the same charism inspires different groups and institutions. The differences in their way of living and expressing it enrich the life of the Church and multiply its capacity to bring the Gospel to every corner of the world. These families are a living testimony of the unity in diversity that characterizes the People of God.

Our Marianist Family is a clear example of this dynamic of the Spirit. This charism, inspired by Blessed William Joseph Chaminade and Blessed Adele de Batz de Trenquelléon, unites us as a community of faith, hope and love. It calls us to live our faith in missionary covenant with Mary, the first and most perfect disciple of Christ, who teaches us to say "yes" to God with generosity and courage, becoming instruments of his love in the world.



The Wedding at Cana. Paolo Veronese



From the beginning, the Marianist charism was conceived as a global project, not as a series of isolated initiatives. The various branches that comprise it - laity, consecrated laity, female and male religious, and priests - reflect this integrating and collaborative vision, where each one contributes his or her own gift to enrich the shared mission. We believe that faith is lived and strengthened in communion with others, in an atmosphere of fraternity and mutual support.

Marianist spirituality is profoundly communitarian and is characterized by a deep love and trust in Mary as model of faith and perfect disciple, by a community life that reflects the unity and diversity of the first Christians, and by an educational and transforming mission that seeks to form persons committed to justice and service.

We are an essentially missionary family. Our charism impels us to prolong the action of Christ in history, working for the coming of the Kingdom of God hand in hand and in covenant with Mary.

More than a simple call, this mission is a way of life. Being part of the Marianist Family means living with hope, joy and commitment, trusting in the power of the Spirit and the intercession of Mary to transform the world according to God's plan.

Prayer after reflection

Lord God, Father of us all, we thank you
for having called the Marianist Family to life.
We ask you to help us to always live our charism
with joy and fidelity.
May we, guided by the Holy Spirit,
be a light to the world and witnesses of your love.
We beseech you to grant us the wisdom to discern
your will at every moment of our lives and the strength
to follow your ways with determination.



May our actions always reflect your love and mercy,
so that we are living witnesses
of your presence in the world.

Help us build communities of faith and service,
where every member feels welcomed and valued.

That they may be true spaces
of encounter and growth,
where fraternity and solidarity are lived.

May our devotion to Mary, our mother,
inspire us to always be bearers of peace
and reconciliation.

Amen.

Gospel Jn, 19,25-27

Beside the cross of Jesus were his mother, his mother's sister, Mary of Clopas, and Mary, the Magdalene. Jesus, when he saw his mother and beside her the disciple whom he loved, said to his mother:

- "Woman, he is now your son."

Then, he said to the disciple:

- "She is now your mother."

And from that hour, the disciple received her as his own.

Reflection on the Gospel

In John's Gospel, there are two key moments where the mother of Jesus, Mary, plays an important role: the wedding at Cana and at the foot of the cross. These two episodes are connected to each other. At Cana, everything begins: the activity of Jesus and the faith of his mother. At the cross, Jesus' mission is fulfilled and a new family is initiated.

Mary is called "woman" by Jesus both at Cana and on the cross. This does not emphasize her physical motherhood, but the new family of disciples that emerges, beyond the natural family.



Both episodes are linked by the "hour." The "hour" of Jesus is linked to the "hour" of Mary, since she also has an essential role in the glorification (the cross). At Cana, it is the "hour" in the future, and at the cross, it is the definitive "hour," the hour of the Passover. Mary is a key character who drives the story forward.

At the cross, Mary initiates her new motherhood, making possible our new birth as children of God and brothers and sisters of Christ, establishing a new way of kinship through divine filiation.

The protagonists in this scene are Jesus, his mother and the beloved disciple. Through the words of Jesus, a paschal community is established. Jesus constitutes a new family, completely redefined. Other women are also included in this new family, as participants and witnesses.

Jesus transforms the relationship with his mother and the beloved disciple. The woman is now mother to the disciple, and the disciple is son. This transformation not only changes the relationship between them, but also with Jesus. If both have the same mother, the disciple is a brother of Jesus and participates to his relationship with the Father.

The disciple gives meaning to the new community that Jesus establishes. Jesus, through his words, creates a paschal community, a new family based on faith where everybody is included men and women.

From the moment that we become children through baptism and follow Jesus and his gospel, we are part of the new family of discipleship. Mary, as the first disciple, is the mother of believers who accept her as their own.

Prayer of the Faithful

- For the Church, that she may always be a sign of unity and charity in the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- For charismatic families, that they may live their charism with authenticity and joy, let us pray to the Lord.
- For the Marianist Family, that we may continue to be faithful to the legacy of our Founders, let us pray to the Lord.



- For young people, that they may discover their vocation in life and follow Jesus with generosity, let us pray to the Lord.
- For those most in need, that they may find in us the support and hope they need, let us pray to the Lord.

Closing prayer

*Our work is great, it is magnificent.
If it is universal, it is because
we are Mary's missionaries
she has told us:
"Do whatever He tells you."
Yes, we are all missionaries.
To each one of us the Blessed Virgin has entrusted a mandate
to work for salvation
of our brothers and sisters in the world.*

(W.-Joseph Chaminade, August 24, 1839)