

MARISTS ON A JOURNEY

Catechesis 11/12

May 15th 2013



Prayer to the Holy Spirit

*Spirit of Water,
purify our lives
and enrich our hearts with your
new "living water".*

*Spirit of Fire,
stir up our ashes
and revive the live coals
which are dying out.*

*Spirit of Wind,
you are a perfumed breeze
Give us strength and
dynamism
to over throw the cowardly.*

*You who are oil,
-a good olive oil-
anoint us with strength
to overcome injustice.*

*Spirit of Wine,
-new wine of joy-
endear us to our mission
"doing whatever He tells us."*

José Luis Martínez González SM

Come Lord and Giver of Life!

This catechesis number 11 is being published just a few days before the great feast of 'freedom, life, diversity and love' – Pentecost. In less than two months we will be meeting in Rio de Janeiro as a Marist Family prior to World Youth Day with our Pope Francis.

As you can see from the contents we are concentrating more and more on the immediate preparation; on what each group will

prepare, in order to create together a suitable family atmosphere, thus enabling us to grow in our faith and share deeply and happily as Marist friends.

We have already journeyed together sharing the Word of God, reflecting on the life of Mary, and on the testimony of our brothers and sisters who have given their lives for the Gospel, living as Mary lived it. Above all we have sought to do this in an atmosphere of prayer and pilgrimage to Rio de Janeiro where as Church we will listen to Pope Francis. Let's open a space in our hearts to receive his call.

Without any doubt the presence of the Holy Spirit in Pentecost will create a special atmosphere .

Loving God, Open our hearts, so that we may feel the breath and play of your Spirit. Unclench our hands so that we may reach out to one another, and touch and be healed. Open our lips that we may drink in the delight and wonder of life. Unclog our ears to hear your agony in our inhumanity. Open our eyes so that we may see Christ in friend and stranger. Breathe your Spirit into us and touch our lives with the life of Christ , Amen



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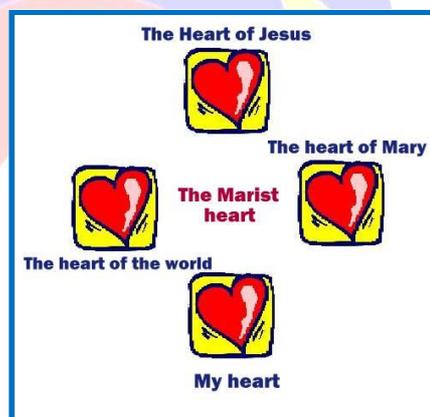


Our **International meeting of Young Marists** prior to WYD Río 2013 takes the theme of 'Our Heart.' When we speak of heart we speak of the most profound centre of life, it is there that we live our important options, where thoughts and feelings embrace, our conscience centre where God dwells.

We would like with the participation of all, to move towards discovering how we really are in the depth of our being, allowing ourselves to be enlightened by the person and the message of Jesus, who accompanies us in listening to the heart of our world, leading us to respond as Young people and in the spirit of Marists to the great needs.

All of us are involved in the making of this event, which will be **Dynamic and Participative**. We invite all to assume these days as that of everyone, that is to say, we build together, we all participate, we are all responsible.

In this communication we want to animate this spirit of co-operation and co-responsibility. So we propose the following: **Each National group (or in some cases groups of different nations) to be responsible, together with a member of the organising team, to facilitate and coordinate a part of our time together.**



Wednesday July 17 in the afternoon: Arrivals, welcome and opening - General Coordination Team

Thursday July 18 in the morning: Prayer (45min.) "My heart" Venezuela

Thursday July 18 afternoon: Games, "The heart of the world" and Mass France and England

Friday July 19th in the morning: Prayer (45min) "The Heart of Jesus" Canadá

Friday July 19th afternoon: Games, "The Marist heart", Mass USA

Saturday July 20: (Pilgrimage) "The heart of Mary", Mass Brazil

Sunday July 21 in the morning: Mass Perú-México

Sunday July 21 evening: Prayer Tonga

Monday July 22: MARIST FESTIVAL Everyone

For adequate organisation we have asked that there be a lay and religious representative for each group (if there is a religious) to form a team together with the General organising Team to revise each day and plan the following one.

We must send by the latest June 15th to Brother Ailto sm the material we plan to use in the prayer sessions (songs, texts etc) so they can be included in a booklet. Even though the language diversity is welcome it is good to know that we have translators to do simultaneous translation during the event.

The team in Brazil will provide musical instruments (guitarre and key board) computer and projector).

We also ask that each group make their own name tags with their names and country of origen. It is recommended that they be sufficiently clear and strong to withstand the wear and tear of a week and that they contain some traditional cultural aspect.

We also suggest that you prepare a song or dance of your country because in the International gathering as well as in the Marist Festival we will have the opportunity to share and live our own cultures and traditions.

The Heart of Mary.



Some groups have expressed the desire to bring a little gift for all the participants. We recommend that it be something economic and symbolic because we are about 120 participants, of course you are welcome to do this but are not obliged to do so.

One again we remind you of the importance of communicating with Aalto concerning your visas and dates of arrival and departure. His e mail is ailto45@hotmail.com

Preparing our luggage:

Little by Little the date is arriving. As you know in Brazil it is winter time, the temperatures are not extremely low but at nighttime more or less 13 or 15 degrees. You will need a good sleeping bag or simple mattress. It is not very cold in the daytime but you may need a sweater.

Note:

We are also interested in knowing whether some communities or Marist Provinces are going with their diocese, because even though they will not participate in the whole Marist event we would like to explore the possibility of inviting them to visit us. Thus we would first need to know if there are groups and also the number of participants.

MARY'S WAY



Mary in Pentecost

Oh Mary, you who are mother of the Church, obtain for the Church the gift of the Holy Spirit. Teach us how to proceed with constancy on the way of renewal marked out by the Spirit. Help us to assume in this work of renewal all that is good and true, assiduously discerning in the signs of the times what ever will serve for the "coming of the Kingdom of God"

John Paul II

"Mary and the disciples in the upper room" (Acts 1, 12-14)



From the first chapter of Acts we know that Mary was one of those who first received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Mary was present when the Church was born, when that little group of disciples became the mystical Body of Christ, living by the life of the Spirit and continuing the work of salvation in the contemporary world. The Spirit dramatically changed them from being merely disciples of the Lord to being Apostles of his word. Once the Holy Spirit came upon them, they were transformed from being timid, and frightened, becoming what the Lord had asked them to be. They became Apostles in action, not merely in name. Mary too, received the same Spirit of Apostleship. We are not told that she took to the streets proclaiming the Good News, but the same Spirit did fill her heart with burning zeal for the cause of her Son.

Mary is a disciple of the Lord. This places Mary firmly in the midst of the Church, the community of disciples. She is no longer seen in isolation from us, but rather she dwells in the heart of our Christian community, as we struggle to live the Gospel. Mary, the disciple and apostle, is truly our model, showing us what we are called to be.

(Michael Coleman, sm. *A Novena for Pentecost*. The Mary's way in England).

"Go make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28,19)

Pope Benedict XVI's message for the twenty-eighth World Youth Day 2013



Dear Young People:

5. Make disciples!

I imagine that you have at times found it difficult to invite your contemporaries to an experience of faith. You have seen how many young people, especially at certain points in their life journey, desire to know Christ and to live the values of the Gospel, but also feel inadequate and incapable. What can we do? First, your closeness and your witness will themselves be a way in which God can touch their hearts. Proclaiming Christ is not only a matter of words, but something which involves one's whole life and translates into signs of love. It is the love that Christ has poured into our hearts which makes us evangelizers. Consequently, our love must become more and more like Christ's own love. We should always be prepared, like the Good Samaritan, to be attentive to those we meet, to listen, to be understanding and to help. In this way we can lead those who are searching for the truth and for meaning in life to God's house, the Church, where hope and salvation abide (cf. Lk 10:29-37). Dear friends, never forget that the first act of love that you can do for others is to share the source of our hope. If we do not give them God, we give them too little! Jesus commanded his Apostles: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Mt 28:19-20). The main way that we have to "make disciples" is through Baptism and catechesis. This means leading the people we are evangelizing to encounter the living Christ above all in his word and in the sacraments. In this way they can believe in him, they can come to know God and to live in his grace. I would like each of you to ask yourself: Have I ever had the courage to propose Baptism to young people who have not received it? Have I ever invited anyone to embark on a journey of discovery of the Christian faith? Dear friends, do not be afraid to suggest an encounter with Christ to people of your own age. Ask the Holy Spirit for help. The Spirit will show you the way to know and love Christ even more fully, and to be creative in spreading the Gospel.

Reflect and share:

In your context what concrete signs of love can open pathways to the Gospel? What is the essential element in the life of an Evangelizer? Can you identify with the role of Evangelizer? For you what is the significance of the phrase! "He /She who does not give God gives very little"? How can we draw our friends into closer union with Christ?

"If we do not give them God, we give them too little"
Benedict XVI i