Marist District of West Africa
District Mariste de l'Afrique de l'Ouest
Distrito Marista de África del Oeste

FINAL PRAYER OF TRANKSGIVING

"Do whatever he tells you"

Song of thanksgiving:

Psalm 42: 2 – 6 *(in choirs)*



As the hind longs for the running waters,
So my soul longs for You, O God.

Athirst is my soul for God, the living God.
When shall I go and behold the face of God?

My tears are my food day and night,
as they say to me day after day, "Where is your God?"

Those times I recall,
now as I pour out my soul within me,

When I went with the throng
and led them in procession to the house of God,

Amid loud cries of joy and thanksgiving,
with the multitude keeping festival.

Why are you so downcast, O my soul?
Why do you sigh within me?

Hope in God! For I shall again be thanking him,
in the presence of my savior and my God.

Glory be to the Father…

Jesus Changes Water Into Wine (John 2, 1-5)

2 On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, **2** and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. **3** When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

4 "Woman,[a] why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."

5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Moment of personal prayer

A Giving Tree

"By their fruit you will recognize them." Matthew 7,16



In revered folklore, there is a tale about a solitary and unusual tree that grew outside the gates of a desert city.

The tree was ancient, a landmark from time immemorial.
It seemed to have been touched by the finger of God, for it bore fruit perpetually.

Despite its old age, its limbs were constantly laden with fruit.
Hundreds of passers-by refreshed themselves from the tree, as it never failed to give freely of its produce.

But along came a greedy merchant purchased the property on which the tree grew. When he saw hundreds of travellers picking fruit from *his* tree, he built a high fence around it. Travellers begged and pleaded with the new owner, "Share the fruit with us."



The miserly merchant scoffed, "It's my tree, my fruit and I bought it with my money."

And then an astonishing thing happened. Within a short time, the ancient tree died!

What could have happened? The law of giving, as predictable as the law of gravity, expresses the immutable principle: when giving stops, bearing ceases, and death follows inevitably.

"Where will the kind, thoughtful, caring people come from for the next generation, if our children are not taught the value of putting someone else's needs above their own?"

Edith Schaeffer



Moment of personal prayer

Intercessions:

Response: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For the Marist Brothers, that each of us may accept the grace to live our consecration and our community life in ways that will attract vocations to religious life, priesthood and particularly to our own Institute: we pray to the Lord.

- For the ability to identify suitable candidates to our Institute and for the wisdom to know how and when to invite them to join us: we pray to the Lord.

- For the Brothers who bear a special responsibility locally or on the Province level for the promotion of vocations, we pray to the Lord.

- In thanksgiving for all those who have helped us to love our vocation and who have supported us in times of difficulty: we pray to the Lord.

(Pause to add your own intentions.)

Closing Prayer

Gracious God, open our hearts and our eyes to the wonders of your presence among us.

Make us constantly alert to the signs of the time, to the calls of the Church and to the needs of young people everywhere.

Deepen in us a realization that contemplation and action are both indispensable elements of spirituality.

As we commit ourselves to your Mission and to passionately centre our lives on Jesus, may we come to know the ways of the Kingdom.

May we communicate the message of Jesus and his way of being and acting through our presence, our words and our deeds. **Amen.**

