



Invitation to Prayer

O God, come to our aid. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

O God, you are our help and our shield. **Be our strength and protection.**

Glory be to the Father Almighty, to the Son, Jesus Christ the Lord, to the Spirit who dwells in our hearts both now and forever. Amen.

Prayer for all children who experience neglect (Based on Jeremiah 1:4-10)

All seeing God,
we thank you for your loving gaze which penetrates everywhere.
No child, however neglected, is hidden from you.
You saw them in their mother's womb
and you formed them there – attentively.
And still you watch over them now – diligently.

All seeing God,
lead parents, carers, professionals and each one of us
to watch, to listen and to act.
So every child currently lacking the attention they need
may be seen and heard and helped.
And above all know just how much they are loved. Amen.

Mark 10:13-16 | Jesus Blesses Little Children

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

A Prayer based on the Calls of the General Chapter

O God, you have a dream for each one of us, for humankind, and for our Institute. By listening to our hearts, may we discover your love, mercy and tenderness.

God of new beginnings, bless us.

Marcellin's experience of your love to drove him to be enterprising, daring and to take risks. The essence of his dream was "to make Jesus Christ known and loved by children and young people".

God of new beginnings, encourage us.

We remember Mary and Joseph fleeing to Egypt to protect the child Jesus. This image urges us to become experts and advocates for the rights of children and young people; speaking bravely and prophetically in public forums.

God of new beginnings, strengthen us.

We acknowledge that at times we have not always protected the rights of children and young people confided to our care.

God of new beginnings, forgive us.

We are called as Marists to be present among poor children and young people as they search for meaning. Marists with a passion to be signs of God's love, and bold enough to move to areas where others do not go.

God of new beginnings, enable us.

We are called as Marists to have a highly significant presence among poor children and young people.

God of new beginnings, challenge us.

We are called as Marists to discern the best way for them to be present and close to children and young people so that our presence is more significant and visible.

God of new beginnings, enlighten us.

We are called as Marists to propose new styles of community, in contact with poor children and young people, which will promote a simpler lifestyle.

God of new beginnings, confront us.

We are called as Marists to see the world through the eyes of poor children and young people and thus change our hearts and attitudes as Mary did.

God of new beginnings, change us.

We are called as Marists to act with urgency, to find new creative ways to educate, evangelize, advocate for, and to be in solidarity with poor young children and young people.

God of new beginnings, through your Holy Spirit move our hearts and transform our minds to respond to the needs of children and young people according to your holy will. Amen.

Intercessions

The Lord's Prayer

Concluding Prayer

God of love, you came into our world as a vulnerable child.
Open our eyes this day to see the needs
of the vulnerable children and young people in our society
and give us the strength and courage
to reach out to them in love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.