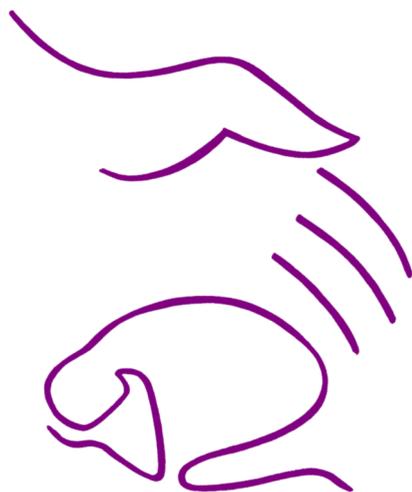


WEEK 4

136. The Society of Mary is constituted in the Church as an apostolic religious community. The phrase 'unknown and even hidden in this world' indicates the manner in which Marists engage in the apostolate and it does not hinder them from doing great things for God. It leads Marists to place themselves in the situation of those to whom they are sent and to put aside everything in themselves which might be an obstacle to the working of the Spirit.



REFLECTIONS FOR ADVENT 2014

These are some of the texts highlighted by Marists as ones which inspired them, in their response to the **Solidarity Ministry Narrative project**. The Solidarity committee offer them to you for prayer and reflection during Advent.

WEEK 1



22. Marists seek inspiration in the traditional phrase, "hidden and unknown in the world". For Jean-Claude Colin it best captured, in the light of his spiritual and pastoral experience, Mary's presence in the Church.

ISAIAH 38:17-20

Surely it was for my benefit that I suffered such anguish. In your love you kept me from the pit of destruction; you have put all my sins behind your back. For the grave cannot praise you, death cannot sing your praise; those who go down to the pit cannot hope for your faithfulness. The living, the living—they praise you, as I am doing today; parents tell their children about your faithfulness. The Lord will save me, and we will sing with stringed instruments all the days of our lives in the temple of the Lord.

LUKE 1:46-55

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.



WEEK 2

23. They learn from him and like him from Mary, how to approach the work of evangelisation so that the Gospel may be received in all its power and clarity. Fired with apostolic zeal for the Kingdom, they follow the Lord in emptying themselves of all self-seeking so that nothing will prevent the word of God from being heard. It was by coming into the world in obscurity and poverty that Jesus drew men and women to His Father.

JOHN 2:1-11

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.



WEEK 3

24. The spirit of 'hidden and unknown' leads Marists to embrace a life of simplicity, modesty and humility. Nothing in their personal life or behaviour, neither pride nor personal ambition, must cause people to resist the salvation offered them by God. Like Mary they are to be gentle with others, respectful of their freedom, and sensitive to their point of view. In this spirit they are able to hear the longings of the people of God and discern the signs of hope present in today's world.

ROMANS 11:33-36

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! Who has known the mind of the Lord?

Or who has been his counsellor?" Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?" For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen

