

# UNITED IN PRAYER

*And the world came together as the people stayed apart.<sup>1</sup>*



## INTENTIONS

*We remember today our Marist family around the world.*

*We pray for all health care workers, doctors, nurses, medical researchers and carers.*

*We pray for the poorest and most vulnerable members of our communities.*

*For what else shall we pray...*

*Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God.*

## OPENING PRAYER

O Lord

You travelled through towns and villages 'curing every disease and illness.'

Be with us now, that we may experience Your healing love and protection.

Let us feel your calming presence amidst any anxiety and fear.

In Jesus' name we pray. *Amen.*

## WE LISTEN

*Speak Lord, your servant is listening...*

### ***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark (4:35-41)***

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

## WE REFLECT

The fishermen were frightened; some thought they would die. The waves kept breaking into the boat while Jesus slept peacefully on a cushion. With the panic on board and the unpredictable storm all around them, we can surely ask how He was able to sleep? But we know the answer. *Faith.*

**Where in my life do I feel overwhelmed?**

**Where can I find moments of stillness?**

*Pause for a moment of reflection.*

## WE RESPOND



*Water From The Rock* reminds us that as we journey in faith...[this] journey of discovery has many twists and turns. At times we struggle with our fears and doubts, as Mary did at the Annunciation. Yet, in each moment of our search God remains faithful and always present, continually inviting us to see our lives through God's eyes. (*WFR 61.*)

We know that as Marists express our Spirituality through family. In these troubled times we are being invited to show the passion and compassion that are so central to our tradition and spirituality.

## CLOSING PRAYER

God of love and healing  
help us, your human family, to join together  
on our journey of faith.  
Send us all your spirit of hope,  
so that we may do what we can  
to alleviate human anxiety and suffering  
and to create and promote charity and justice  
in our world.

***Amen.***

Saint Marcellin Champagnat  
Mary of the Cross MacKillop  
Mary Our Good Mother  
And let us always remember

***Pray for Us***  
***Pray for Us***  
***Pray for Us***  
***To Pray for One Another***

## STILLNESS<sup>2</sup>

JOYCE RUPP

*stillness*  
*just stillness*  
*like my world seldom knows,*  
*inside I have an expressway*  
*that never slows down,*  
*always full of going somewhere*  
*always another thing to do*

*stillness*  
*just stillness*  
*filled with quiet, numinous sound,*  
*like butterfly wings, river murmurs,*  
*cloud breaths, firefly blinks,*  
*and silence, simple, serene silence,*  
*nothing more*

*stillness*  
*just stillness*  
*here in this satisfied space,*  
*and I, so crippled from my chaos,*  
*sound inside like the cawing crow*  
*flying low over the pond,*  
*breaking the stillness*  
*with his harshly handled song*

<sup>1</sup> Jennifer Wagner, 2020

<sup>2</sup> Joyce Rupp, *The Cosmic Dance* (Orbis Books, Maryknoll, 2002), 37.