

Spiritual Resources Exploring the Theme of Service

Created by the Marist Association Pastoral Team

You are his Beloved, Discerning his call...

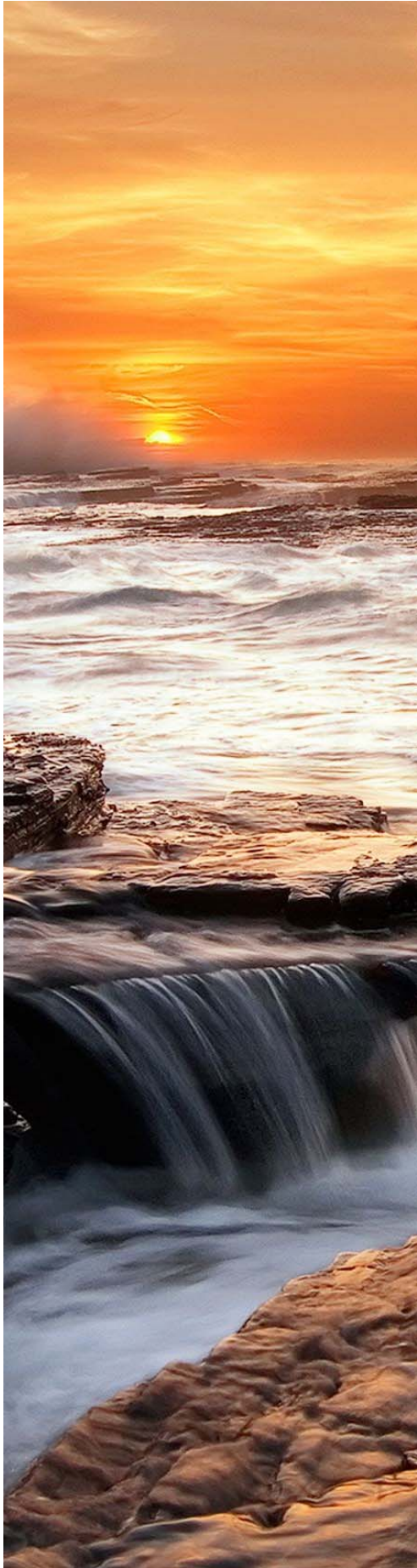


Discernment

- * *Nothing more than the ability to decide between right and wrong.*
- * *The ability to judge well*
- * *Perception of that which is secure*
- * *Examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain*



Prayer & Introduction



Walk with me, good and loving God,
as I journey through life.

May I take your hand and be led by
your Holy Spirit.

Fill me, inspire me, free me to respond
generously to Your call.

For I believe you desire my deepest joy,

And it is only in Your company

That my soul will be satisfied

And my life will find its meaning

and purpose.

Amen

You are his Beloved, what does he call you to do??

Discernment was always a very scary word for me as it called me to make a decision, something that I was never very good at! For me the word always had religious connections and I was fairly sure I wasn't called to live the life of a nun! However, in looking back I realize I have

In answering God's call to be Marist, I was clear from the start that it was where I was meant to be. Have any of you had the pleasure of spending time in the Hermitage at Mittagong? For me it was like coming home! I got an overwhelming sense of Marist hospitality when I stepped into the main dining room and experienced the warmth of the

remained with me and called me back again and again for more. It gives me a hunger to continue building friendships and sharing in formation experiences helping me to live my life in a Marist way. This is what nourishes me and gives me life!



spent a lot of time throughout my life in the processes of discernment, answering God's call to so many vocations. Answering God's call as a mother, a wife, a teacher, a friend, a confident, a listener, a Marist! I realized that I have been called so many times by the Spirit that works in me and through me to the work of God – to mission and to ministry.

fire and the welcoming smiles from other Marists gathered there.

Following this I experienced a time of enriching prayer and formation allowing me to feel very at home with the Marist way of life.

Marist for me was like coming home and it's this feeling of family and connection that has

Group Discussion

- ☞ What originally called you to Marist Ministry and Mission?
- ☞ What keeps you here?

Scripture and Input

1 John 3:18

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him, whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The Word of the Lord.

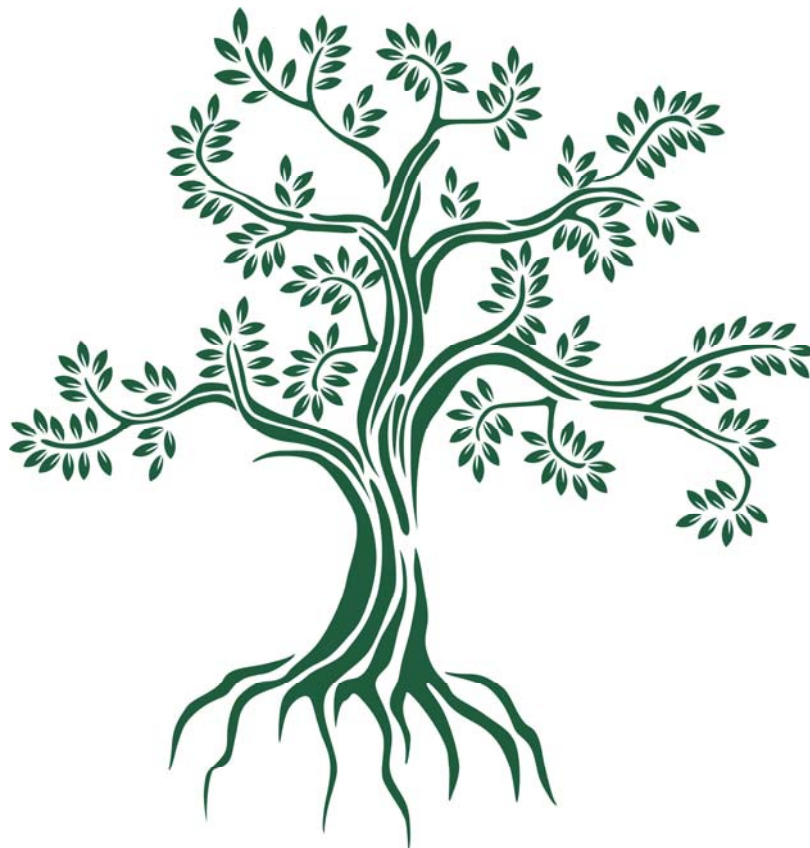
The Discernment Tree

Use the image of the tree to reflect on your personal experiences of Gods calling in your life.

Use the branches to show the roles and vocations to which you have been called.

Use the roots and trunk in reflection on that which nourishes you in fulfilling your calling.

Use your tree to discuss your calling with fellow Marists.



Reflection

The words of Marcellin Champagnat inform and nourish our calling.....

Marcellin Champagnat wrote to his Brothers sending New Year's wishes, his words have much to inform us today in our vocations.

Letter no. 63. 1836, 19 January

'Our heart loves to remember you each day and to present you all to the Lord at the holy altar, but today we cannot resist the pleasant satisfaction of expressing to you our affectionate feelings and of showing you our Fatherly affection. Cherished and well beloved, you are constantly the special object of our loving concern. All our desires, all our wishes are for your happiness, as you no doubt know.

Our very dear Brothers, our happiness is not the kind which the world looks for and which it thinks it can find in material possessions. We wish and desire for you those goods which are more solid and real. To serve God with fervor, to fulfil faithfully all the duties of our state, to work every day to detach our hearts from creatures in order to give it to Jesus and Mary, to open it to all movements of grace – that is what is really desirable and is what we wish for you. Yes, our dear Brothers, religious and children of Mary, your glory should be to imitate and follow Jesus Christ. May this divine Savior fill you with His spirit; may His wisdom direct you in everything you do for His glory.....

Courage, then, our very dear people, the sufferings and struggles of life last only a moment. Let us often look at the immense weight of glory which will be its reward forever, remembering always that the just Judge will crown only him who has conquered and persevered to the end!

May Jesus and Mary always have you in their holy keeping!

We have the honour to be your very devoted and affectionate father in Jesus and Mary.



☞ **How do Marcellin's words speak to you today?**

☞ **As Marists how do we serve God with fervor?**

Closing Prayer

As our prayer let us reflect on a further passage from 1 John .

1 John 7- 12

God is Love

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God;

everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love God does not know God for God is love.

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is

love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is perfected in us.

We, as Christians, believe that God transcended and became human. That's the whole foundation of our faith, isn't it? And yet, when you think about it, the genius of God – to choose to hide where you would least likely look: within ourselves. And when we come to the realization, through no fault of our own, but just by the fact that we're human, that we are loved and that God would choose to dwell there, then we start looking at the other people in the world, and we are inclined to see that presence in everyone.

Martin Sheen, in 'The Meaning of Life' with Gay Byrne.

In blessing for your work

May the light of your soul bless all you do
With love and warmth of heart.
May you see in what you do the beauty of your soul.
May the sacredness of your work bring light
and renewal to those you meet.
May your mission never exhaust you.
May it release well springs of refreshment, inspiration
and excitement.
May you never become lost in bland absences.
May the day never burden you.
May dawn find hope in your heart,
approaching each day with dreams, possibilities and promises.
May evening find you gracious and fulfilled.
May you rest at night blessed, sheltered and protected.
May your soul calm, console and renew you.
Amen.



Beloved, I am calling you....

