

Called to be Instruments of Mercy



**Novena for Vocations to the Society of Mary
through the intercession of St Peter Chanel**

20 April 2015 – 28 April 2015

Our novena this year focuses on the needs of our world and the fact that, if we had more vocations to the Society of Mary we might be able to do more to address those needs. Each day has a theme. Our focus therefore is not only upon our congregation but upon others and their needs for the works of mercy.

The structure of each day is :

- a small prayer to help us to consider those who have needs and how we might respond.
- a short passage which comes from the Gospel of the day – many of these passages also amplify the theme of the prayer.
- Either A prayer for Marists
 or A Prayer to St Peter Chanel for vocations.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus You desire that all be saved
and come to the knowledge of Your truth.
Call workers into this great harvest
that the gospel may be preached to everyone
and Your people, gathered together by the Word of Life and
strengthened by the power of the Sacraments may progress in
the way of salvation and love.

Day 1: Monday 20 April: For the Spread of the Gospel

Lord you ask us to spread the gospel to the people of every nation of the earth. Call more young men to join the Society of Mary so that we may preach the Word to all the people of our world. Help us to make the world a place where all may know the love that you came to show us.

Gospel today:

Do not work for food that cannot last
But work for food that endures to eternal life.
The kind of food the Son of Man is offering you
For on him the Father, God himself has set his seal.

A prayer for Marists

Lord, we pray for the power to be compassionate;
Like Peter Chanel the strength to be forgiving;
the patience to be understanding;
and the courage to accept the consequences
of holding to what we believe.

May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil
and the power of love to overcome hatred.

We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe
in a world that accepts the Your Gospel;
a new world where fear shall no longer make people unjust
nor selfishness make them bring suffering to others.

Help us to devote our whole life and thought and energy
to the task of following you as a son of Mary,
praying always for the inspiration and the power
to fulfill the mission for which we were created and called.

Day 2: Tuesday 21 April: For the hungry

Lord you ask us to feed the hungry and needy of every corner of the world. Call more young men to join the Society of Mary so that we may work to assist those who are hungry or malnourished and in lands that experience famine and work with those who have more, teaching them to share.

Gospel today:

I tell you most solemnly it was not Moses who gave you bread from Heaven. It is my Father who gives you the bread that comes down from heaven. The true bread, for the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

Prayer to St Peter Chanel

Peter, you left your homeland to proclaim Jesus, Saviour of the world to the peoples of Oceania.

Guided by the Spirit of God, who is the strength of the gentle, your bore witness to love, even laying down your life.

Grant that, like you, we may live our daily life in peace, in joy, and in fraternal love.

May your prayer and example call forth from our midst many workers for the Gospel so that God's Kingdom may reach to the ends of the earth.

Let us also pray today for The Marist Sisters that young women might join them to continue the Work of Mary.

Day 3: Wednesday 22 April: For the thirsty – those in need of water

Lord you ask us to bring water to the people of every country in the world. Call more young men to join the Society of Mary so that we may assist those who do not have the necessary elements of life such as drinking water.

Gospel Today:

I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry. He who believes in me will never thirst.

A prayer for Marists

Lord, we pray for the power to be compassionate;
Like Peter Chanel the strength to be forgiving;
the patience to be understanding;
and the courage to accept the consequences
of holding to what we believe.

May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil
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Day 4: Thursday 23 April: For those held captive, or unjustly imprisoned

Lord you ask us to set prisoners free and to ransom the captive – those held for their beliefs and forced from their homes, persecuted because of war and unrest, or taken into slavery. Call more young men to join the Society of Mary so that we may work for justice, peace and harmony in our world.

Gospel today:

I am the living bread which has come down from heaven
Anyone who eats this bread will live forever
And the bread that I shall give is my flesh for the life of the world.

Prayer to St Peter Chanel

Peter, you left your homeland to proclaim Jesus, Saviour of the world to the peoples of Oceania.

Guided by the Spirit of God, who is the strength of the gentle, your bore witness to love, even laying down your life.

Grant that, like you, we may live our daily life in peace, in joy, and in fraternal love.

May your prayer and example call forth from our midst many workers for the Gospel so that God's Kingdom may reach to the ends of the earth.

Let us also pray today for The Marist Brothers of the Schools that young men might join them to continue the Work of Marcellin.

Day 5: Friday 24 April: For those who have died and for those who mourn

Lord you ask us to care for those who have died and for those who mourn their loss. Call more young men to join the Society of Mary so that we may bring dignity to those at the end of their lives, bury those who have died, and assist those who mourn them.

Gospel Today:

If you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood
You will not have life in you
Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood
Has eternal life and I will raise him up on the last day.

A prayer for Marists

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Like Peter Chanel the strength to be forgiving;
the patience to be understanding;
and the courage to accept the consequences
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May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil
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Day 6: Saturday 25 April: For those who need education

Lord you ask us to teach those who do not have good education or those who have not had the chance to learn even the most basic things in life. Call more young men to join the Society of Mary so that we may teach and share what we have with those who are young and those who need training.

Gospel today:

Then Jesus said to the twelve: what about you, do you want to go away too?

Simon Peter answered: Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe, we know that you are the Holy One of God.

Prayer to St Peter Chanel

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Guided by the Spirit of God, who is the strength of the gentle, your bore witness to love, even laying down your life.

Grant that, like you, we may live our daily life in peace, in joy, and in fraternal love.

May your prayer and example call forth from our midst many workers for the Gospel so that God's Kingdom may reach to the ends of the earth.

Let us also pray today for The Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary that young women might join them to continue their work in the missionary world.

Day 7: Sunday 26 April: For those who are sick, lonely sad and suffering

Lord you ask us to visit the sick and to bring comfort to those who are lonely and sad without friends and family. Send more young men to join the Society of Mary so that we may go out to the streets and homes of those who suffer and offer them comfort and healing.

Gospel today:

I am the good shepherd, I know my own and my own know me,
Just as the father knows me and I know the father
And I lay down my life for my sheep.

A prayer for Marists

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Day 8: Monday 27 April: For those needing forgiveness and mercy

Lord you ask us to forgive and to show mercy, to bring your love and reconciliation to our world. Send more young men to join the Society of Mary so that we may offer forgiveness and mercy, healing and charity to those who need it most in our world.

Gospel Today;

The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock
The gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one
he calls his own sheep and leads them out . When he has brought
out his flock he goes ahead of them and the sheep follow because
they know his voice.

Prayer to St Peter Chanel

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Guided by the Spirit of God, who is the strength of the gentle,
your bore witness to love, even laying down your life.

Grant that, like you, we may live our daily life in peace, in joy, and in fraternal love.

May your prayer and example call forth from our midst many workers for the Gospel so that God's Kingdom may reach to the ends of the earth.

Let us also pray today for Marist Laity that women and men might join with all the Marist Congregations to continue the Work that we are doing.

Day 9: Tuesday 28 April: For those needing shelter and a home

Lord you ask us to give shelter to the homeless in every tribe and nation and people and land. Send more young men to join the Society of Mary so that we may assist those who need shelter, a safe place to live and sleep and a home for their families.

Gospel Today:

As he was walking along by the sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men."

A prayer for Marists

Lord, we pray for the power to be compassionate;
Like Peter Chanel, the strength to be forgiving;
the patience to be understanding;
and the endurance to accept the consequences
of holding to what we believe.

May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil
and the power of love to overcome hatred.

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