

Invoking the saints

As part of the Marist vocation as religious we know that we are to stand before God and pray for others. We pray for people and people ask us to pray for them.

In the Third Eucharistic Prayer we call upon the saints *'on whose constant intercession we rely for unfailing help'*. Invoking the saints is a venerable practice, epitomised in the Easter Vigil litany, honouring men and women of different times and vocations.

Fr Colin's 'school of saints'

Jean-Claude Colin was inspired by saints -- and inspired others to seek personal holiness. There is, indeed, a school of saints and saintly people in our Marist tradition.

The church has formally recognized some. Marists have introduced the causes of others. The memory of still more continues to inspire.

Some died in the aura of sainthood. Others gave witness by their blood, their preaching, teaching or leadership. Others through the generous simplicity of their lives.

As they professed to strive for the first aim of the Society, holiness, so do we. Indeed, the Second Vatican Council reminded the whole people of God of the call to holiness.

'A Marist Litany' includes names from a rich Marist tradition of these saints and saintly people. It includes:

- Patrons of the Society
- Saints, founders, pioneers and tertiaries
- Patrons of the Society
- Those who died in the fame of holiness or in violence
- Pioneer missionaries and those giving lives of service to lepers and to others
- Educators and teachers
- Spiritual leaders and leaders of the Society

Those not formally declared 'saint' are included for their personal example, enriching the lives of Marists and their people.

Including them does not imply any official claim to sainthood. That is the business of any future process.

'Local saints'

Each Unit of the Society of Mary keeps alive in memory its own confreres from the school of Marist saints inspired by Jean-Claude Colin. These, too, should be part of this prayer.

And so to the Marist Litany must be added...

- Those other saintly Marists alive in memory in Units across the world.

A Marist Litany

Prayer through the intercession of
Jean-Claude Colin's
school of Saints and saintly people

A Marist Litany

Patrons of the Society of Mary

- ◇ Holy Mary Mother of God, **pray for us**
- ◇ St. Joseph Our Protector
- ◇ St. Michael Archangel
- ◇ All Our Guardian Angels

Saints, founders, pioneers, tertiaries...

- ◇ Saint Pierre Chanel, **pray for us**
- ◇ Saint Marcellin Champagnat
- ◇ Saint Jean-Marie Vianney
- ◇ Saint Pierre-Julien Eymard
- ◇ Venerable Jean-Claude Colin
- ◇ Jeanne-Marie Chavoïn
- ◇ Marie-Françoise Perroton
- ◇ Eugène Cartier

Died in the fame of holiness

- ◇ Blaise Marmoiton, **pray for us**
- ◇ Paul Ducharne

Died in violence for the faith

- ◇ Jean-Baptiste Epalle, **pray for us**
- ◇ Arthur Duhamel
- ◇ Henk Oude-Engberink
- ◇ Wilhelm Weber
- ◇ Robert Brett

Pioneer missionaries

- ◇ Pierre Bataillon, **pray for us**
- ◇ Joseph Chevron
- ◇ Jean-Baptiste Bréhéret

- ◇ Catherin Servant
- ◇ Claude Chavas
- ◇ Lionel Marsden

Service of lepers

- ◇ Xavier Nicouleau, **pray for us**
- ◇ Léon Lejeune

Personal witness of service

- ◇ Brother Maurice Dupont, **pray for us**

Educators & teachers

- ◇ Antoine Garin, **pray for us**
- ◇ Antoine Monfat
- ◇ Romain Butin
- ◇ Maurice Villain
- ◇ Jean Coste

Spiritual leaders

- ◇ Georges David, **pray for us**
- ◇ Gabriel Voisine
- ◇ Wiremu Te Awhitu
- ◇ Peter Le Rennetel

Leaders of the Society

- ◇ Jean Leterrier, **pray for us**
- ◇ Franz Wieschemeyer

Local Units

- ◇ Philip Callaghan, **pray for us**
- ◇ Robert Barber

- ◇ All saintly Marists, **pray for us**

Closing prayer

Loving God, you gave us Jean-Claude Colin to inspire the pioneers of the Society of Mary and the generations to follow. We thank you for the witness of those so faithful to his inspiration and ask that we, too, may be graced with this same spirit in all we do.

We make this prayer through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

