

On Earth as it is in Heaven...

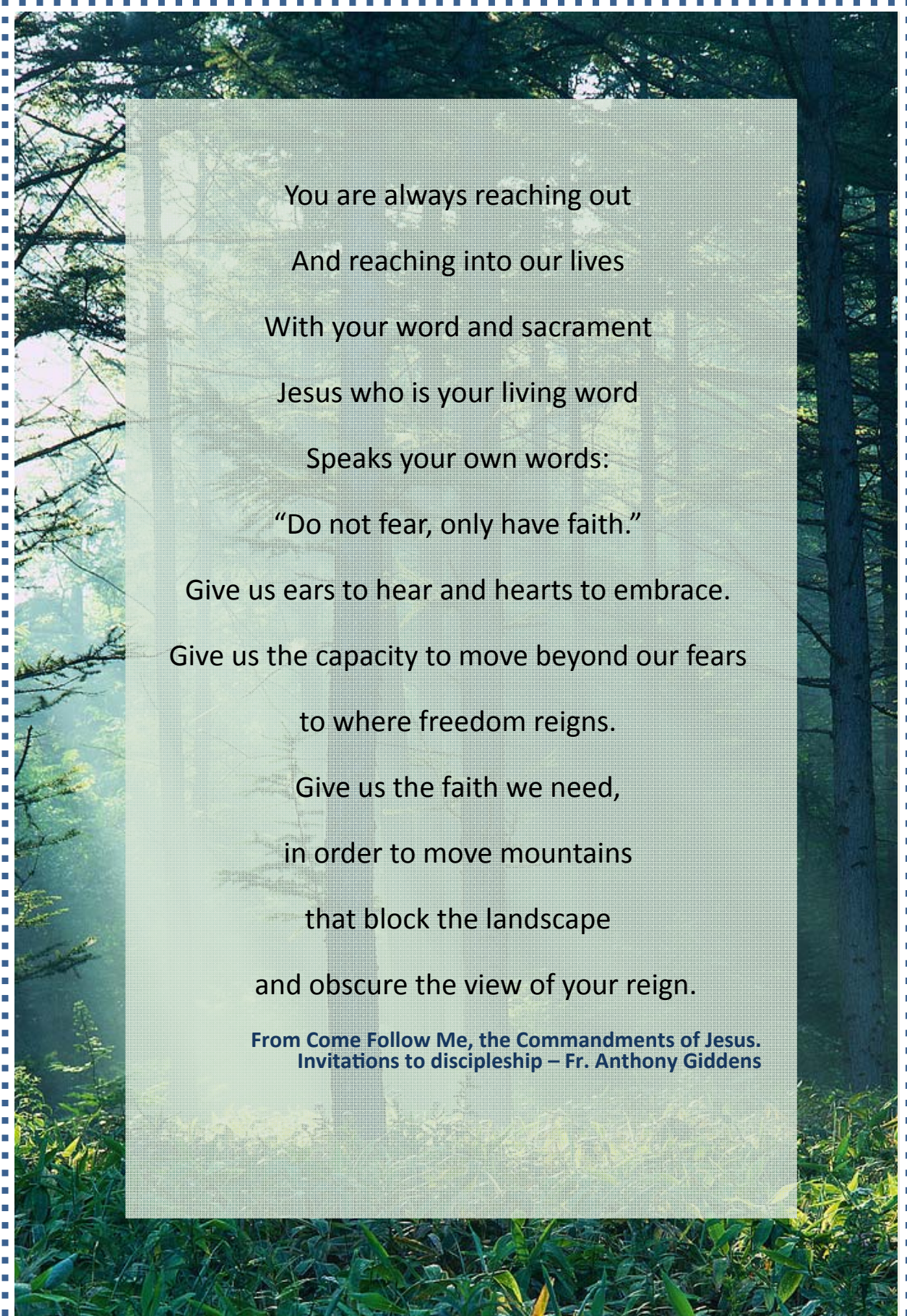
A Call to Discipleship



The one who believes in me will do the works that I do – Jesus



# Prayer



You are always reaching out  
And reaching into our lives  
With your word and sacrament  
Jesus who is your living word  
Speaks your own words:

“Do not fear, only have faith.”

Give us ears to hear and hearts to embrace.  
Give us the capacity to move beyond our fears  
to where freedom reigns.  
Give us the faith we need,  
in order to move mountains  
that block the landscape  
and obscure the view of your reign.

**From Come Follow Me, the Commandments of Jesus.  
Invitations to discipleship – Fr. Anthony Giddens**



# Introduction

# A

s Marists we answer God's *Call to Discipleship*, to do on earth as it is in Heaven, to bring God's mission alive in all we do. If we are to take up the challenge of #Serve, we must see ourselves as Disciples of Christ. God invites us to follow him and to share His mission here in our world. By saying yes to the call to discipleship we to take on the mission of serving one another. By answering God's call to discipleship we choose to share in God's mission. As disciples we assume the responsibility of making Jesus Christ known and loved in our word. Discipleship and the call to discipleship lies at the core of all we do.

## Scripture

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."



*Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ*

*– Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

# A Meditation on the Journey of Discipleship

## What is a Christian disciple?

*Discipleship is the irreplaceable and lifelong task of becoming like Jesus by embodying his message*  
– Alan Hirsch

It's a term we often use, but rarely think about carefully. Like an arrow fired from a distance at a very slightly inaccurate angle, the word disciple somehow seems to have strayed further and further away from its target as the centuries have gone by.

**Personal reflection:** *What do you think of when you consider the word 'disciple', is it a word you would apply to yourself?*

Our English word 'disciple' means 'a person who learns', and we often understand discipleship as a process of learning – learning

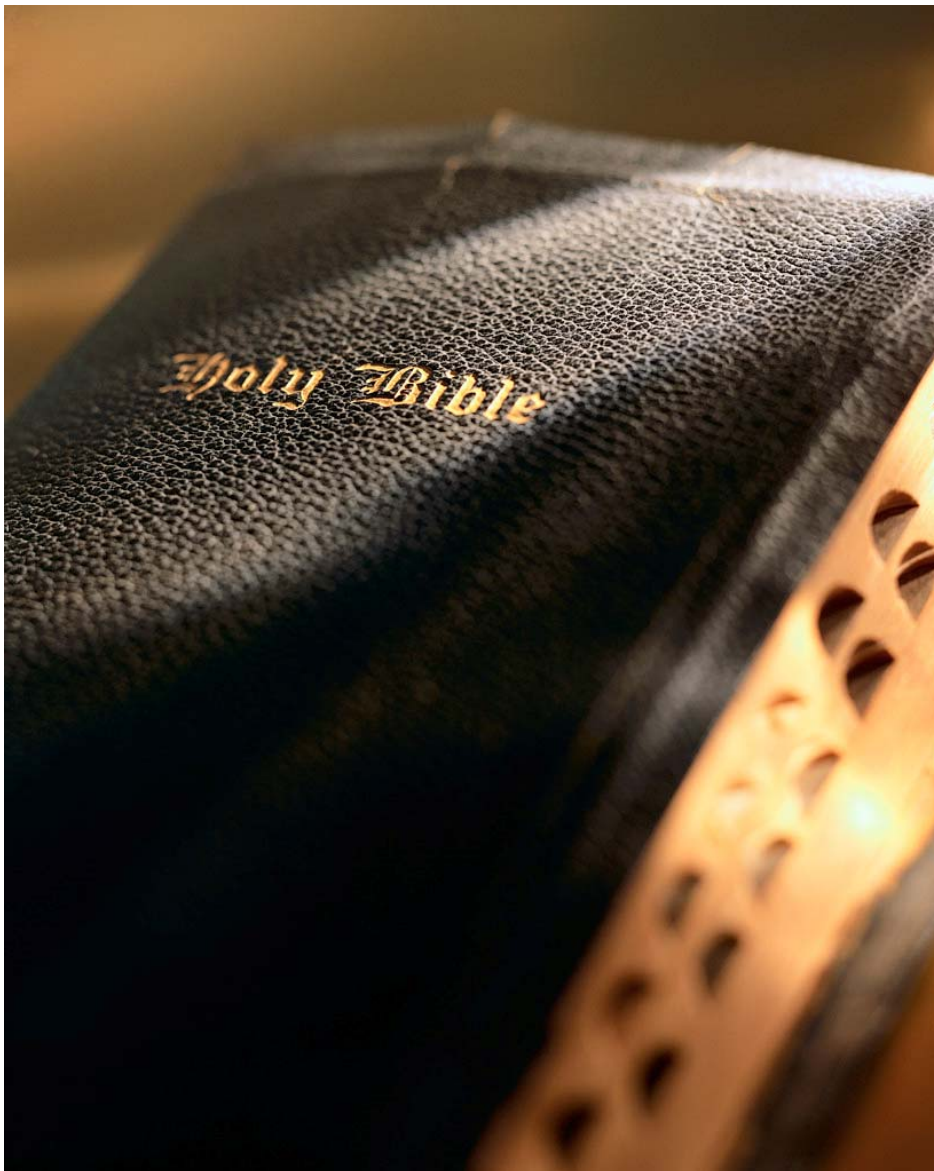
which involves study. So for us, to grow in discipleship often means to grow in knowledge and understanding, particularly of the Bible. But when we read the Bible, we don't actually see Jesus' disciples engaged in study; we see them being trained to do the things that Jesus did. They were more like apprentices than disciples.

**Personal Reflection:** *Are you learning to do the things that Jesus did?*

When we decide to follow Jesus, we are given the Holy Spirit as our guide and teacher. Through the presence of the Spirit in our lives, we are enabled to grow and change. We become more and more like Jesus himself, and we gradually acquire the inner beauty of a person being made clean from the inside out. Meditate on this thought:

**Personal Reflection:** *In God we are not condemned or defined, but forever becoming – Gunilla Norris*

We are used to thinking about life in individual terms, and this colours our attitude to faith too. But in the New Testament we see something rather different. Jesus did not recruit individuals, he recruited a group – a group who would, for three years, do everything together. He taught them to love one another, to minister alongside one another, to depend on one



another. When he left them, he sent the Holy Spirit to be with them instead, and the Holy Spirit equipped them to minister not as individuals but as connected branches of a single vine, as different parts of a single body.

**Personal Reflection:** *How do you pray, learn and minister together in your community?*

To be a disciple of Jesus was to travel, and so it has always been. Before the word 'Christian' was invented, the disciples of Jesus were known as followers of 'The Way'. Christian discipleship is not about knowing things, believing things, attending things, or

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belonging to things – it's about setting out on a shared journey, a journey which will change who we are and the way we live our lives, a journey which begins here but will carry us ultimately into another world. Discipleship is a journey in which we learn gradually to move into the space made available to us by Jesus.

**Personal reflection:** *What spaces are made available to you by Jesus, do you give yourself fully to those you encounter in these space?*

Adapted from <http://www.resource-arm.net/pray.html>

*I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish humble tasks as though they were great and noble. The world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker*  
– Soren Kierkegaard

## Input

Fr. Anthony Giddens talks about true Discipleship in Jesus; let's take a moment to listen to what he has to say.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fA3-8WyCeiw>

## Group Reflection

- In our work how can we dare to take the risks that this woman takes? What needs to be done?
- Do we prepare to meet Jesus in our community? Do we invite others to meet Jesus?
- Do we allow ourselves to have complete trust in Jesus in our work as Marists?
- As a community do we do all we can? What do we need to do more of or do better?
- What do we do as a community that is worthy of being remembered by others, what legacy do we leave?



# Prayer and Commitment

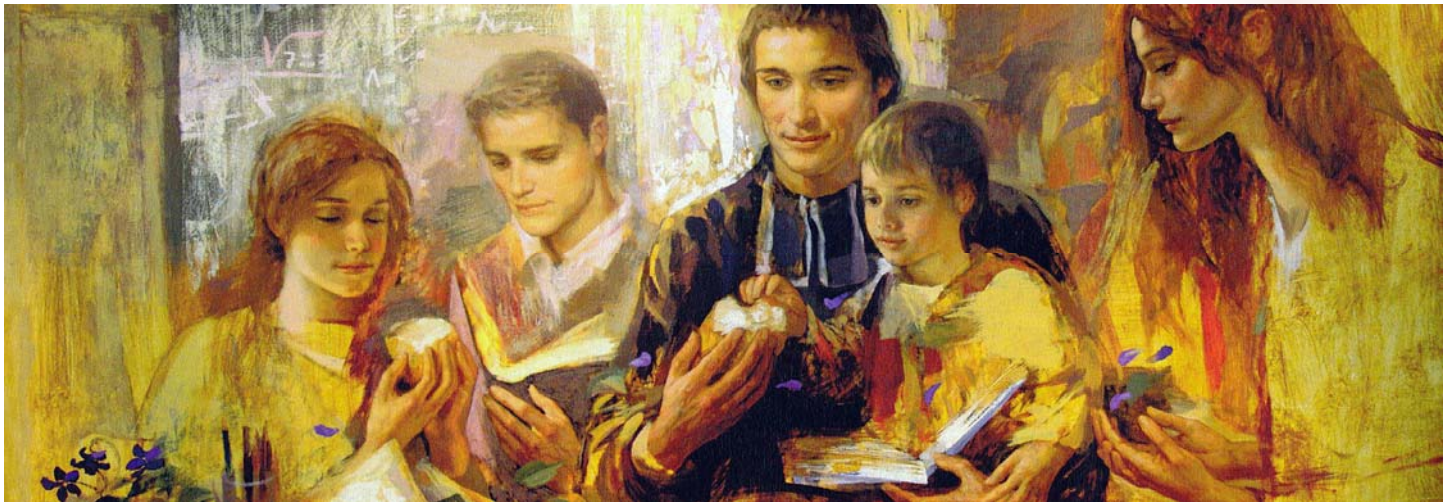
**14.** The lay Marist vocation, like all vocations, originates and is developed by viewing one's life in light of the Spirit. This discernment has different stages; this requires that each

person should be accompanied while respecting his or her personal rhythm .

**15.** We Christian men and women with very different histories and very different

culture share the call to live the Marist Charism through the lay state. We thank God for the gift of being part of a family that speaks a thousand languages and has one single heart.

Gathered Around the Same Table, Pages 27-28



## Lay Marists – A Christian Vocation

*There was something more in that Brother: his dedication, his welcoming attitude to everyone, his way of dealing with patients, the renewed spirit that I saw in each sick person after he lavished his care on them, his spontaneity in the defense of the voiceless.....all these details transcended the fulfillment of his professional duties.... He was different.*

Gathered Around the Same Table, Pages 28-29

Let us Pray:

### Philippians 2:1-11

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



**G**od of love,  
Source of mercy and compassion  
Weave your dream for our world into the fabric of our lives.

Remove the scales from our eyes  
And lift the indifference from our hearts,  
So that we may see your vision-  
A new reign of justice and compassion  
That will renew the face of the earth.

Transform our lives,  
So that we may accomplish your purpose.

Anoint us with your Spirit  
So we might bring good news to the oppressed,  
Bind up brokenhearted,  
And proclaim release to the captive.

Give us a new urgency  
And a new commitment  
To feed the hungry  
Clothe the naked  
Shelter the homeless  
And visit those who live isolation.

Help us to reach out to those  
Whom no one else will touch  
To accept the unacceptable,  
And to embrace the enemy.

Surround us with your love,  
Fill us with your grace,  
And strengthen us for your service.

Empower us to respond to the call of Jesus-  
To deny ourselves,  
To take up our crosses,  
And to follow.

Make us your disciples.  
Amen

St Marcellin Champagnat:

Mary, our Good Mather:

And let us always remember:

*Pray for us,*

*Pray for us*

*To pray for one another.*

*‘There is urgency in Jesus’ message, and a pressing need for his followers to become agents of the Good News. Coercion is never justifiable, but we must do something, since all who are called are also sent – commissioned- by Jesus.*

*Our responsibility is to seek to discover, and to be committed to the demands of discipleship in the daily circumstances of our own lives.*

*Gittens – pg. 17 Called and Sent*



**We cannot be disciples unless we are constantly listening and internalizing the word of Jesus.**