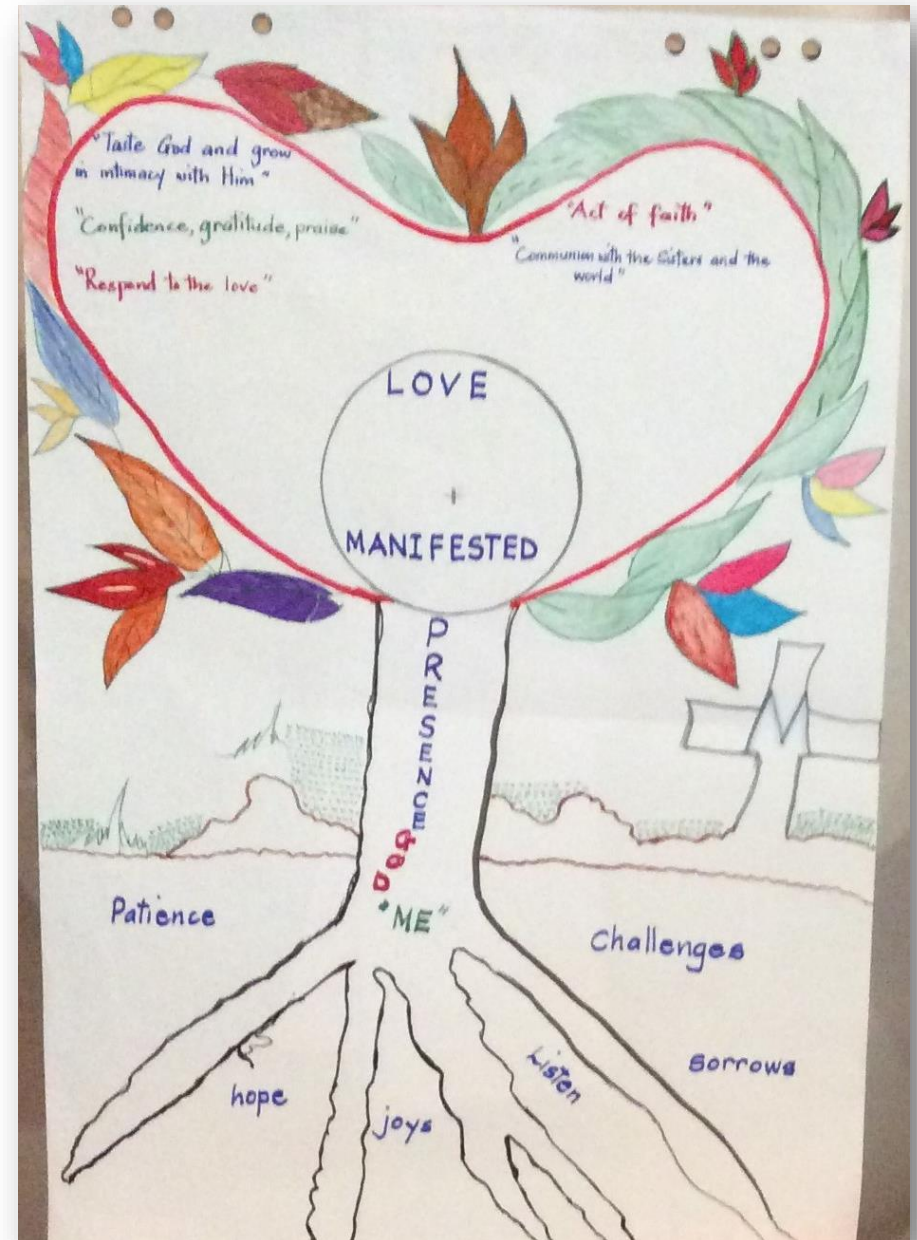


Our Symbol of Prayer



The Final Vows Preparation Group 2018
Via Aurelia 292, Roma

Antoinette, Birisita, Elisa, Jeanne-Valérie, Thérèse

In our symbol we have tried to represent the chapter from our Marist Constitutions on Prayer. The symbol is the fruit of all our ideas put together and we share it with you as a GIFT today.

Anne reminded us that prayer is our presence with God and God's presence with us. As Marist women we bring our whole selves to God - knowing that our strength and nourishment come from Him. As shown on our Prayer symbol, we do this through personal and community prayer and the celebration of the sacraments, especially the daily Eucharist. The symbol we have created is a chalice design in the tree, and the top part is also a heart – inside it is the Eucharist.

The flames/flower in the middle of the heart-shaped chalice represent the light of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has guided our Congregation and each sister down through the years. He has never let us down!

At this moment I invite us to invoke the Holy Spirit in our lives.

A key longing in every human heart is to be connected with God – Prayer makes this possible! And not only does it connect us to God, but also to our neighbour and to the whole world. **In our symbol, everything is connected – reminding us that though separated by miles we remain connected in our love, faith and “Marist-ness”**

The green grass represents the great contributions of our sisters who have given their lives to the Congregation and are now with God in heaven. We remember, too, our elderly sisters across our Units who have guided and influenced our lives – and we take time to pray for them.

The deep roots represent our faith... a faith that is strengthened by our history, values and culture. And the sand is a reminder of our fragilities, humanity and brokenness. Let us take time to offer to God – for His healing and forgiveness – all that prevents our faith from blooming.

Right in the middle of the rocks which hold the chalice-tree is our Marist Cross. This reminds us that we are on solid ground, holy ground.

Jesus said, “I am with you always until the end of time”

and

**Mary was the mainstay of the new born Church
and at the end of time her protection will shine forth
in an even greater way.**

The green leaves around the heart represent our lives given in prayer and God's life given to us in prayer. It is this prayer, our filial response to God's love, that gives our Marist Charism its vigour, essence and totality, its LIFE! And so we are ready to embrace the future with hope.

The beautiful and colourful flowers around the tree represent each one of us – unique, with different gifts, talents, beauty and joy.... We are a gift to one another.

- Let us say thank you to God for who we are.
- And let us bring another sister before God ... appreciating her as God's beautiful work of art, His masterpiece.