

June 2, 2020

Dear Marist Youth and Young Adults,

St. Paul reminds us in his letter to the Ephesians, “let everyone speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger.” (Ep 4:25-26) I write to you with sadness and anger about the events in our country that were brought to the surface a week ago with the murder of George Floyd. It’s been one week since we woke up to the tragic video of this injustice. We forgot that we belong to one another and our brother George is dead. In reality though, the death of this young black man is just the latest tragedy in a long and disgusting history of racial, economic, and class discrimination. I share the outrage and Holy Anger of our brothers and sisters in Minnesota and throughout this country who have been rising up in peaceful protests and who seek justice and reform.

Marcellin Champagnat encountered an uneducated, dying boy and was filled with Holy Anger at the injustice of the education systems in his community. That Holy Anger moved him to act and our Marist Brothers were born to work for change against that injustice. Our Marks of a Marist Student remind us that we Marists are called to be *Agents of Justice and Peace*. We are called to work for a change in the culture and systems that allow this injustice to continue. Working for justice and change is a long and painful struggle. Jesus, who stood against the corrupt religious and political leaders of his time, calls us to stand against injustice in *our* time. Mary, Our Good Mother, was in the room at Pentecost, when the fire of the Holy Spirit filled them, and they went out boldly to make Jesus known and loved. We are called to be like her, in the midst of our world, filled with the fire, lifting up our brothers and sisters, and making Jesus known and loved by our example.

Fr. Champagnat knew that love allows us to have different perspectives but one heart and believed the presence of God in all things would be revealed by that love. I know it may not seem like it, but God is present even in this chaos. Look at the beautiful diversity of voices who are rising up. Look at how many young people stand together as one against injustice. Let us be of one heart, moved by Holy Anger.

We are proud of those Marists who have been moved to action in this work for change. You are doing Our Good Mother’s work, making the love of our Lord present in the world. Go out, be a voice for the voiceless, let the fire of that Holy Anger burn in your belly but let only love speak through your words and your actions. Let your anger be a holy force for love and peace, do not let it turn to violence. We stand with you, we have your backs, may God bless us with Holy Anger!

Let us remember to pray for each other and that we belong to one another!

Always,



Matt Fallon  
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Marist Brothers Province of the USA

