



MARIST PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA

RELIGIOUS CALENDAR: DECEMBER 2023	
POPE'S INTENTION: <u>For Persons with Disabilities</u>	
We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation	
December 1st. Friday of the last week in Ordinary Time Psalm week 2	
Liturgy	Dn 7:2-14 "I saw coming on the clouds of heaven one like the son of man" Lk 21:29-33 "when you see these things happening know that the kingdom of God is near"
Memorial	Of Blessed Anuarite Nengapeta, virgin and martyr, she was a member of the Holy Family Sisters in the Democratic Republic of Congo, martyred by the Simba rebels in 1964
Reflection	IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH: "What is the origin of the vocation of the Brother if not the experience of God's love? "We have known the love God, what he has for us and put our faith in it" (1 Jn 4:16). That is also the source of every Christian vocation. "Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction"40."
Reminder	World Day of Fighting against AIDS Last year, Bro Seán started his visit to the District
Intentions	For those suffering from AIDS and HIV For Brother Superior General and all his intentions
December 2 Saturday of the last week in Ordinary Time Psalm Week 2	
Liturgy	Dan 7:15-27 "sovereignty and kingship will be given to the people of the saints of the Most High" Lk 21:34-36 "stay awake praying for the strength to service all that is going to happen"
Reflection	IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH "The vocation of the Brother is not only intended to be that of a recipient of God's love, but also of being a witness and mediator of that same gift, of the project of communion which God has for humanity and which is based in the Trinitarian communion. This project, the Mystery which has been revealed to us in Christ, seeks to establish a horizontal relationship between God and humankind at the very heart of humanity, precisely where God wants to be present."
Reminder	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
Intentions	For all those who are victims of modern forms of slavery For the Marist community of the Provincial House, Accra ➔ Marist Saturday: day of prayers for the Marist Family

December 3		FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B (II) Psalm Week 1	
Liturgy	Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7 “Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down” 1 Cor 1:3-9 “we are waiting for the Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.” Mk 13:33-37 “stay awake because you do not know when the master of the house is coming”		
Memorial	St Francis Xavier, Jesuit, one of the greatest of all Christian missionaries, 16 th century		
Reflection	IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH “Relationships of affiliation are thus transformed simultaneously into brotherly relationships. For that reason, saying "brother" is like saying "mediator of God's love", the God who "so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life" (Jn 3:16).”		
Reminder	International Day of Disabled Persons		
Intention	For all missionaries, priests, religious and lay, throughout the world. For the Marist Community of Ashalaja		
December 4		Monday of the 1st week of Advent	Psalm: week 1
Liturgy	Is 2:1-5 “the lord draws all nations together into the eternal peace of God’s kingdom” Mt 8:5-11 “many will come from the east and west to take their places in the kingdom of heaven”		
Reflection	IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH “To be a "Brother" is also to be a mediator of the love of the Son, the Mediator par excellence, who "loved them to the end" (Jn 13:1) and asked us to love one another as He loved us (Jn 13:34). In this world that God loves so much, the Brother cannot hide. On the contrary, he experiences the impulse to go out to encounter and embrace God. In contemplating the saving work of God, the Brother discovers himself to be an instrument which God wants to use to make the covenant, God’s love and concern for the weakest, more visible.”		
Intentions	For all those involved in the Vocations Ministry For the Marist community of Odeneho Kwadaso. ➔ First Monday of the month: we pray for our deceased Brothers, relatives and benefactors		
December 5		Tuesday of the 1st week of Advent	Psalm: week 1
Liturgy	Is 11:1-10: “on him the spirit of the Lord rests” Lk 10:21-24: “Jesus is filled with joy by the Holy Spirit”		
Reflection	IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH “The Brother is aware that all creation is imbued with the love and presence of God and that especially whatever affects the human person is part of God's saving plan. Thus, is born in the Brother and the community of Brothers the commitment to quality professional service in every task, no matter how profane it may seem.”		
Reminder	International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development		

Intentions	For all the Novices and formators at Sabin-Akrofrom. For farmers and all those who till the land.
December 6	Wednesday of the 1st week of Advent Psalm: week 1
Liturgy	Is.25: 6-10 “the Lord invites us to his banquet and wipes away the tears from every cheek” Mt 15:29-37 “Jesus cures many and multiplies the loaves”
Reflection	IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH “There is nothing greater than baptismal consecration. Baptism "regenerates us in the life of the Son of God; unites us to Christ and to his Body, the Church; and anoints us in the Holy Spirit, making us spiritual temples” ⁴² . The whole existence of a Christian must be one of being in a process of integration into the plan of communion of which Baptism is a sign, taking on the baptismal commitment according to the vocation that each one has received from God.”
Intentions	For all the Brothers involved in ongoing formation programs For Brother Provincial Superior and his Council
December 7	Thursday of the 1st week of Advent Psalm: week 1
Liturgy	Is 26:1-6 “let the righteous nation come in, she, the faithful one” Mt 7: 21. 24-27 “the person who does the will of my father will enter the kingdom of heaven”
Memorial	Of St Ambrose, bishop and doctor of the Church
Reflection	IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH “The above statement risks not being understood if we read it outside the great story of the history of salvation, within which it comes to life and within which, through Baptism, each Christian finds his or her own unique place. This story tells how the Trinity transmits its own communion in the mission of the salvation of humanity, how it proposes the covenant in various ways, and commits itself to it to the extreme in the incarnation of the Son. This story of salvation continues thanks to the Spirit, who brings together and builds up the Church with his gifts, so that, through her, it can continue saving humanity.”.
Intentions	For unity in the plurality of cultures of our Institute For the Marist community of Monrovia
December 8	Friday – SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION Proper Office
Liturgy	Gen 3:9-15. 20“I will make you enemies of each other: your offspring and her offspring” Eph 1:3-6. 11-12: “He chose us in Christ to be holy and spotless” Lk 1:26-38 “Rejoice, so highly favored, the Lord is with you”
Anniversary	In 1842, consecration of the Institute to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Reflection	IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH “Each religious consecration expresses to the faithful that the mystery of Christ the Savior is being fulfilled here today, in this world and through the Church today. In every time and place consecrated persons show their contemporaries the traits of Jesus with which he himself had made clear that the mystery of the

	Kingdom of God had broken into history. Visibility is achieved by a way of being present which reveals the charism of each religious family in the here and now. Therefore, consecrated people should frequently ask themselves how to be witnesses of the Lord today. What kind of presence should we live so that the Lord Jesus can be seen, and experienced by people today?"
Intention	For the grace to keep alive the devotion to the Mary. For the Marist Community of Buokrom.
December 9	Saturday of the 1st week of Advent Psalm: week 1
Liturgy	Is 30:19-26 "he will be gracious to you when he hears your cry" Mt 9:35 – 10:1. 6-8 "when he saw the crowds, he felt sorry for them"
Anniversary	In 1879, death of Bro Louis-Marie, 2 nd Superior General (from 1860 to 1879)
Reflection	IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH "Consecrated life is called to be "a living memorial of Jesus' way of living and acting as the Incarnate Word in relation to the Father and in relation to the brethren" ⁴⁷ . In particular, the Religious Brother, and also the Religious Sister, make visible in the Church the face of brother Christ, "firstborn among many brothers" (Rom 8:29), creator of a new brotherhood which he established with his teaching and with his life."
Intentions	For the implementation of our Personal and Community Life Projects For the Brothers and works in Cameroon ➔ Marist Saturday: day of prayers for the Marist Family
December 10,	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year B (II) Psalm Week 2
Liturgy	Is 40:1-5, 9-11 "prepare a way for the Lord" 2 Pt 3:8-14 "we are waiting for the new heavens and new earth" Mk 1:1-8 "make his paths straight"
Memorial	Of St. Melchiades Bishop of Rome and second African Pope (311-314)
Anniversary	In 1984 arrival of the first Brothers to Kenya (Lake Victoria, Roo) In 1984, Desmond Tutu is awarded with the Nobel Prize of Peace
Reflection	IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH "The Religious Brother, living his lay state through a special consecration, is witness to the value of the common priesthood received in Baptism and Confirmation: "He has made us a kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father" (Apoc 1:5,6). His religious consecration is in itself an exercise in the fullness of the priesthood of all the baptized. The essential act of this priesthood is the offering of the spiritual sacrifice by which the Christian places himself or herself in God's hands "as a living sacrifice" (Rom 12:1), in response to His love and for His glory."
Reminder	Human Rights Day
Intentions	For our Brothers in the Province of Africa Central East. For our students and their families.
December 11	Monday of the 2nd week of Advent Psalm week 2
Liturgy	Is 35:1-10 "God himself is coming to save you" Lk 5:17-26 "we have seen strange things today"
Memorial	Of Pope St. Damasus I (304-384)

Reflection	<p style="text-align: center;">IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH</p> <p>“The Brother lives in communion with the Father, source of all life, through the total offering of his life to God in an attitude of praise and worship. Rooting his life deeply in God, the Brother consecrates all creation, recognizing the presence of God and the Spirit's action in creation, in cultures and in daily events. Because he recognizes this active presence, he can proclaim it to his contemporaries. This ability is the fruit of an ongoing process of openness to God through consecration, that is, through the daily experience of his baptismal priesthood.”.</p>
Reminder	Beginning of Canonical Visitation to Korhogo Community
Intentions	For continual conversion to the Lord. For the Marist community of Koumr, Chad
December 12 Tuesday of the 2nd week of Advent Psalm week 2	
Liturgy	Is 40:1-11 “God consoles his people” Mt 18:12-14 “God does not wish the little ones to be lost”
Birthday	Mantobaye Kimingar François, 1989
Memorial	of St. Jane Frances de Chantal, foundress of the Congregation of the Visitation In Latin-America, feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Anniversary	In 1964, Martin Luther King is awarded with the Nobel Prize of Peace
Reflection	<p style="text-align: center;">IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH</p> <p>“Religious consecration helps the Brother to participate more consciously in the fraternal dimension which characterizes the priesthood of Christ. He "had to become completely like his brothers, to be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest" (Heb 2:17,18). To clothe us in his divine sonship, Jesus Christ first of all became brother, shared our flesh and blood and was in solidarity with the sufferings of his brothers and sisters. This is the title Jesus gives his disciples after his Resurrection, and Mary Magdalene is responsible for communicating it: "Go to my brothers, and tell them: I am ascending to my Father and your Father" (Jn 20:17).”.</p>
Intentions	For all those working for peace and justice in our troubled world. For Brother François, his vocation, family, personal intentions and his apostolates in Ivory Coast.
December 13 Wednesday of the 2nd week of Advent Psalm Week 2	
Liturgy	Is 40:25-31 “the lord almighty gives strength to the wearied” Mt 11: 28-30 “Come to me, all you who labour”
Memorial	Of St. Lucy, virgin and martyr
Reflection	<p style="text-align: center;">IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH</p> <p>“In the fraternal community which supports him, the Religious Brother experiences the mystery of the Risen Jesus as a call and a sending forth in mission. This community is a theological space⁴⁹ where Jesus makes himself present among the brothers (cf. Mt 18:20) to unite them in one heart, to give them his Spirit (cf. Jn 20:22) and to send them, like Mary Magdalene, to announce that in Christ we are all brothers, sons of the same Father. Immersed in this experience, the Brother develops his baptismal priesthood through brotherhood.</p>

Intentions	For a better understanding of our identity and our vocation For the Provincial Council
December 14	Thursday of the 2nd week of Advent Psalm week 2
Liturgy	Is 41:13-20 "I the holy one of Israel am your redeemer" Mt 11:11-15 "A greater than John the Baptist has never been seen"
Memorial	Of St. John of the Cross, Carmelite, Doctor of the Church. He undertook the reform of his order, encouraged by St Teresa of Avila.
Reflection	IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH "The Religious Brother and the lay Christian who is committed in secular society live the universal priesthood in different ways. Both express the complex richness of this priesthood which implies closeness to God and closeness to the world, belonging to the Church as servant of the Lord and to the Church which is built in the world, for God. The committed lay Christian effectively reminds the Religious Brother that he cannot be indifferent to the salvation of humanity, nor to progress on the earth which is loved by God and geared to Christ."
Reminder	End of Canonical Visitation to Korhogo Community.
Intention	For a life of simplicity among our Brothers. For the Marist community of MIC, Nairobi.
December 15	Friday of the 2nd week of Advent Psalm week 2
Liturgy	Is 48:17-19 "if you have been alert to my commandments" Mt 11:16-19 "they heed neither John nor the son of man"
Birthday	Franklin Dingamadji
Anniversary	In 1949, first Marist foundation in Nigeria
Reflection	IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH "The spirituality of the Brother must lead him to emphasise in a special way the foundational Christian experience which the evangelist Mathew symbolically expressed as: "The veil of the Sanctuary was torn asunder" (Mt 27,51). This image suggests to us that Jesus, through his death, "has opened for us a new and living opening through the curtain, that is to say, his own flesh" (Heb 10:20) so that we can meet the Father. God's presence is no longer exclusively in a "sacred place". From then on "God must be worshipped in spirit and in truth" (Jn 4:24)."
Intentions	For the Bishop, and all members of the clergy in the diocese where we work. For the Brothers and works of the Marist Province of Nigeria
December 16	Saturday of the 2nd week of Advent Psalm week 2
Liturgy	Eccl 48:1-4. 9-11 "Elija will come again" Mt 17:10-13 "Elijah has come already and they did not recognise him"
Reflection	IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH "Religious Brothers integrate the official prayer of the Church with the dimension of service that characterizes their consecrated life. They cultivate a contemplative attitude capable of glimpsing the presence of Jesus in their personal circumstances, in their daily lives, in their work and commitments, in order to be able to exclaim with him: "I thank you, Father ... because you have revealed these things to the simple..." (Lk 10:21)".

Reminder	Beginning of Canonical Visitation to Bouaké Community.
Intentions	For sick people and for those caring for them For all the Brothers and laypersons working in Marist schools ➔ Marist Saturday: day of prayers for the Marist Family
December 17 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year B (II) Psalm week 3	
Liturgy	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11 “I exult for joy in the lord” 1 Thes 5:16-24 “may you all be kept safe, spirit, soul and body for the coming of the lord” Jn 1:6-8, 19-28 “there stands among you unknown to you the one who is coming after me”
Reminder	Today we start the last week before Christmas. During the coming days there is a proper liturgy for the mass and proper elements for the Office
Reflection	IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH “Like Mary, the Religious Brother is invited to live intensely the spirituality of the Word, to have this experience of being at home around Jesus, listening to his message, and living alongside him the mystery of the Father who makes us children in the Son and brothers among ourselves and with Jesus.”
Intentions	For children who are abused or orphaned in our schools. For the Brothers and works of the Marist Province of Southern Africa.
December 18 Monday of the last week before Christmas	
Liturgy	Jer 23: 5-8 “I will raise a virtuous branch for David who will reign as true king Mt 1:18-24“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife”
Reflection	IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH “Supported and inspired by Mary, the Brother lives in his community the experience of the Father who brings the brothers together with his Son around the table of the Word, of the Eucharist and of life. With Mary, the Brother sings the greatness of God and proclaims his salvation. Because of this he feels urged to seek out and to make a place at the table of the Kingdom for those who have nothing to eat, the socially excluded and those marginalized from progress. This is the Eucharist of life which the Brother is invited to celebrate in the spirit of his baptismal priesthood, reaffirmed by his religious consecration.”
Reminder	International Migrants Day
Intentions	For Pope Francis and his intentions For the Brothers and works of the Marist Province of Madagascar
December 19th Tuesday of the last week before Christmas	
Liturgy	Judges 13:2-7. 24-25 “You will conceive and bear a son” Lk 1:5-25 “Your wife Elizabeth will bear a son”
Anniversary	In 1886, arrival of the first Brothers to Spain.
Reflection	IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH “The community of Brothers manifests in that way the universality of the brotherhood begun by Christ, for it is not based on natural bonds but on the power of the Holy Spirit, living principle of love among human beings. Authentic

	community life represents a living sign of the essential reality that the Brothers have to announce. The love that God has shown to humanity in Jesus Christ becomes a uniting principle for human beings among each other: "May they be one so that the world may believe" (Jn 17:21). Building on faith, the community makes real the ministry of revealing the love of the Triune God by means of the communion that reigns in it."
Intentions	For the Brothers and works in the Province of Mediterranean. For appreciation of Mary in our Institute.
December 20th Wednesday of the last week before Christmas	
Liturgy	Is7:10-14 "The maiden is with child, whom she will call Emmanuel" Lk 1:26-38 "You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus"
Reflection	IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH "Consecration and mission are united in the community. In the midst of it, gathered in the name of Jesus, the Brother experiences the mystery of God: the Father's love, the life of the Risen Christ, the communion of the Holy Spirit. The Lord consecrates the Brother in the community and from there sends him out to communicate that same mystery: love, life and communion."
Intentions	For all those involved in education in the countries where we work. For all our family members and friends passing through difficult times.
December 21st Thursday of the last week before Christmas	
Liturgy	Song of songs 2: 8-14 "My beloved says to me, 'Come, my lovely one, come'" Lk 1:39-45 Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb"
Memorial	Of St. Peter Canisius, Jesuit from Holland, doctor of the Church
Reflection	IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH "The community of Brothers is in itself a prime manifestation of the baptismal priesthood. Its life is shaped to allow the members to live the experience of being chosen by the Lord "as living stones, used in building a spiritual house, a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices pleasing to God through Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 2:5). This image from the first letter of St. Peter gives us a sense of the dynamism of a building under construction. It is a very appropriate one when referring to a religious community of Brothers called to develop the dimension of their common priesthood."
Reminder	End of Canonical Visitation to Bouaké Community Launching of Commission to prepare the 2nd Provincial Chapter
Anniversary	In 1915, Marist foundation in Morocco. The Brothers stayed there until 1975
Intentions	For the Marist Community of Ahwiren. For happy repose of the souls of our brothers who have gone before us.
December 22 Friday of the last week before Christmas	
Liturgy	1 Sam 1:24-28 Lk 1:46-56 Two similar canticles of thanksgiving: Hannah gives thanks for Samuel's birth. Mary proclaims the greatness of the Lord through her Magnificat
Birthday	Brother Norbert Afoni Ndilon
Anniversary	In 1988, blessing of the Marist school in Korhogo, Côte d'Ivoire

Reflection	<p>IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH</p> <p>“The community organizes its life so as to be able to see the action of God present in its daily life and to discover there the history of salvation that is being fulfilled every day. In the same contemplation, the community discovers itself as a mediator in the saving action of God. It gives thanks, celebrates and offers itself to continue, as a useful instrument, in the history of salvation.”</p>
Intentions	<p>For the Brothers and works in North America</p> <p>For brother Norbert, vocation, family, personal intention and his apostolate in the Tatum community</p>
December 23 Saturday of the last week before Christmas	
Liturgy	<p>Mal 3:1-4. 23-24 “I am going to send my messenger before me”</p> <p>Lk 1:57-66 The birth of John the Baptist: “What will this child turn out to be?”</p>
Reflection	<p>IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH</p> <p>““Communion represents both the source and fruit of mission”⁵⁹. This statement from the post-conciliar reflection of the Church finds a visible image in the community that Brothers create. It is always a brotherhood for mission. It is not simply that the community has an apostolic outreach. The mystery of the saving God emerges as a source in the community; it is lived among the Brothers and finds expression in the Church's mission. It returns to the community and nourishes its life from the reality experienced in the mission.”.</p>
Reminder	Perpetual Profession of Vows of Br Kouakou Jean Bertrand Alex
Intentions	<p>For brother Alex, that the lord may grant him the grace to be faithful to his vows and fulfilment in his vocation..</p> <p>For peace in African countries.</p> <p>➔ Marist Saturday: day of prayers for the Marist Family.</p>
DECEMBER 24, FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B (CHRISTMAS EVE)	
Liturgy	<p>Micah 5:1-4: “Out of you, Bethlehem, will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel”</p> <p>Hb 10:5-10 “God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will”</p> <p>Lk 1:39-45 “Blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled”</p> <p><u>MASS AT MIDNIGHT</u></p> <p>Is 9:1-7 “There is a child born for us, a son given to us”</p> <p>Titus 2:11-14 “God’s grace has been revealed; salvation has been made possible for the whole human race”</p> <p>Lk 2:1-14 “Mary gave birth to a son; she wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger”</p>
Anniversary	In 1836, the first group of Marist missionaries (Fathers and Brothers) sailed from Le Havre to Oceania
Reflection	<p>IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH</p> <p>“The approval of the Institutes of Brothers by the Church entails, in the first place, the entrusting of the missionary task that each one carries out according to its own</p>

	charism. Secondly, it recognizes that their commitment to the various human situations in which they are involved is not accidental or external to their religious life, but rather an essential part of their identity and their consecration. Beyond the specific tasks they carry out, these consecrated communities represent the Church, universal sacrament of salvation ⁶⁰ , within society and especially alongside the poor and the suffering.”.
Intentions	For our parents, and relatives as they prepare themselves for Christmas. For all the Marist Brothers around the world.
DECEMBER 25TH MONDAY- THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	
Liturgy	<u>Mass during the day</u> Is 52: 7-10 “All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God” Heb 1:1-6 “God has spoken to us through his own Son” Jn 1:1-6 “The Word was made flesh and lived among us; we saw his glory”
Reflection	IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH “Brotherhood in service has been a fundamental contribution of Religious Institutes of Brothers to consecrated life and to the Church. Through brotherhood those Institutes underline the indissoluble bond between communion and mission, the essential role of brotherly love as the central core of evangelization in its full magnitude and complexity, the reality of the action of the Spirit and the seeds of the Word present, in some way, in all peoples and cultures.”.
Intentions	For Brother Superior General and the General Council. For the grace to experience the peace and joy of Christmas.
December 26th Tuesday – Feast of St Stephen, First Martyr	
Liturgy	Acts 6:8-10; 7, 54-59 “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit” Mt 10:17-22 “You will be hated on account of my name”
Birthday	Brother Tano Pokou Komenan, from Côte d’Ivoire
Reflection	IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH “Common life, an essential characteristic of the religious life of Brothers, is intended to strongly encourage brotherly communion, but fraternal living does not automatically become a reality through the observance of the rules governing common life (63). While it is true that the structures are necessary, community among Brothers is expressed mainly through their attitudes. They come together to participate more fully in the life and mission of Jesus, to give witness to brotherhood and sonship to which all the faithful are called.”
Intentions	For those who are persecuted for their faith For Brother Tano, His vocation, family, personal intentions and community of Buoake
December 27th Wednesday *Feast of St John, Apostle and Evangelist	
John is the “beloved” disciple referred to in the gospels, and the author of the 4 th Gospel, the Apocalypse and three Letters. He was son of Zebedee and one of the three who were closest to the Lord, present at the important moments of his life	
Liturgy	1 Jn:1, 1-4“The life was made visible, we saw it and we are giving our testimony” Jn 20:2-8 “The other disciple (John) reached the tomb first”

Reflection	<p>IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH</p> <p>“Thus, the community is, for Brothers, an experience more than a place; or better still, the Brothers live together, gather in a place, to deeply develop that experience. In that way they are responding to the call to be experts in communion⁶⁴, effective signs of the possibility of living deeper relationships rooted in the love of Christ.” (C. 36)</p>
Intentions	<p>For all domestic workers in our communities</p> <p>For the community leaders in our province</p>
December 28th Thursday *Feast of Holy Innocents	
Liturgy	<p>1 Jn 1:5 – 2, 2 “To say that we have never sinned is to call God a liar””</p> <p>Mt 2:13-18 “Herod was furious and he had all the male children killed”</p>
Reflection	<p>IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH</p> <p>“Mutual love is the hallmark of Christians (cf. Jn 13:35), and this is the sign which Brothers offer. This love must be the criterion of discernment in each community of Brothers, above and beyond the effectiveness of their work. It is easy to see how, in the founding period of each of the Institutes of Brothers, brotherly love is signalled as the core of the initiative, and they explicitly take on the ideal of the first Christians, to be "of one heart and one soul" (Acts 4:32). From this standpoint they organize their apostolic action, aware that this consists in transmitting what the Brothers have previously lived in community. Their brotherhood will create brotherhood, and the mission of the Brothers is characterised from the beginning as one of being in communion and creating communion.”</p>
Reminder	<p>Perpetual Profession of Vows of Br Ndim Gilbert Ndzichia, Njuakom Augustine, Wiysenyuy .S. Habib, and Wirngo Ignatius Kiy-yeh</p>
Intentions	<p>For Brothers Gilbert, Augustine, Habib and Ignatius that God may grant them the grace to be faithful to their vows.</p> <p>For more vocations in our province.</p>
December 29th Friday in the Octave of Christmas	
Liturgy	<p>1 Jn 2: 3-11 “The one who claims to be living in God should live the same kind of life as Christ lived”</p> <p>Lk 2: 22-35 “The child’s father and mother wondered at the things Simeon said about him”</p>
Memorial	<p>Thomas Becket, bishop of Canterbury. He defended the rights of the Church and was murdered by the King of England</p>
Reflection	<p>IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH</p> <p>“The prophetic experience of fraternity⁶⁵ on the part of the Brothers is accompanied by a commitment to take on the lifestyle of Jesus. Consecrated celibacy allows them to live community life fully and to be brothers to all, rather than living an exclusive love. Poverty, the choosing of a moderate and simple lifestyle, means sharing goods in order to experience fraternal communion with others⁶⁶. And obedience, by which all come together in the common project, "in</p>

	the same witness and the same mission, while respecting the diversity of gifts and individual personalities"67.”.
Intentions	For peace in African countries For the members of the General Administration
December 30 Saturday in the octave of Christmas	
Liturgy	1 Jn 2:12-17 “The love of the Father cannot be in any man who loves the world” Lk 2:36-40 “The child grew to maturity and he was filled with wisdom”
Birthday	Br Evaristus Mbiyzenyuy, (1983) from Cameroon
Reflection	IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH “The community of Brothers lives its prophetic mission counter-culturally, because its lifestyle, according to the Gospel, is opposed to what the world promotes. The community of Brothers is a "brotherhood born of the Spirit, of the interior freedom of those who put their trust in God despite the human limitations of those who represent him"68. For that reason, it is a place of multiple commitments, of mutual interdependence, of harmony and solidarity that are open and reach out, in a demanding way of life, in the discernment of their lifestyle in the light of the Gospel.”
Reminder	Perpetual Profession of Vows of Br Gueradi Tour-Hali Destin
Intentions	Let us pray for Brother Destin, for the lord’s guidance and blessings upon him, may his commitment to serving the lord deepens and may his life be a testament of God’s love and grace For brother Evarestus, his vocation, personal intentions, family and community of Bafut ➔ Marist Saturday: day of prayers for the Marist Family
December 31 Feast of the Holy family year B	
Liturgy	Sir 3:2-7, 12-14: Those who fear the Lord honour their parents. Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17: Family life in the Lord. Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40: The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom.
Memorial	Of St. Sylvester I, pope
Anniversary	In 1852, first Marist foundation in London
Reflection	IDENTITY AND MISSION OF THE RELIGIOUS BROTHER IN THE CHURCH “Religious Brothers, in facing the present, have to risk asking the same question as Paul: "What should I do, Lord?" but this question is only sincere when preceded by the willingness to "get up", because that is the first response required (cf Acts 22:10.16). In other words, fidelity to the present time requires personal willingness to change and to be disturbed. Without it, there is little value in renewing structures.”
Intentions	In thanksgiving to the Lord for everything we have received during this year. For a growing sense of brotherhood in all our communities For peace of mind.