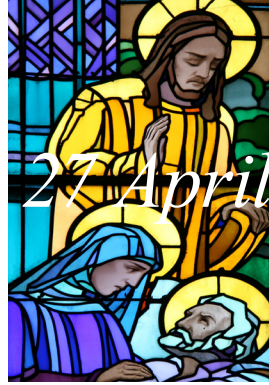


## COLLOQUIUM (conversation)

On Futuna, Peter Chanel was not alone. He shared his life with Brother Marie-Nizier Delorme and he talked with him about the progress of the mission and also its difficulties. When he got the opportunity, he went to Wallis to meet his confreres.

Jesus passes time talking with his disciples. He helps them understand what has happened or things that he has said. On the road to Emmaus, he rereads the scripture with the disciples: "And, starting with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted the Scriptures that were about himself (s 24, 27). Lord give us a better understanding of your word so that we may share it with our brothers and sisters.

photographs : Jean-Baptiste Frondas



27 April

## DORMITIO (death)

On April 28 1841, Musumus came to Peter Chanel and asked for medical treatment. When they had gained entry to Peter's dwelling, Muusumus's companions pillaged the house and he struck Peter Chanel a deadly blow. Peter's last words before dying were "It's good."

Jesus said, "Amen, Amen I say to you: if the grain of wheat falling onto the earth does not die it remains alone; but if it dies it bears much fruit" (John 12, 24). Lord, grant that we may accept that we follow you in your Passion so that our lives may bear fruit. Give to young people a desire to follow you in the Society of Mary.



28 April

## SEPARATIO (separation)

The King of Futuna paid his respects to the corpse of Peter Chanel. His remains were transported to New Zealand in 1842, and from there to Sainte Foy. In 1997 they were returned to the shrine of Poi on Futuna.

In the course of his life St Peter Chanel lived many departures and separations. He left his home village of Cuet, then his diocese of Belley, then France, at each stage going further and further away. Lord, give us the courage to start over and over again in these days when the church and the Society of Mary are living through profound changes. Through the intercession of St Peter Chanel, we ask you that we may grow in faith.



## St Peter Chanel Novena

The stained glass windows of the big chapel at La Neylière were put in by Raphaël Lardeur from 1931 to 1935. They are wary the stages of the life of Mary, based on the theme of Nazareth. At the initiative of Jean-Baptiste Frondas, the *Maristes en Education* team at la Verpillière has produced a booklet based on this work of art as a presentation of Marist Spirituality. I've used this as my inspiration for this scene as my inspiration for this novena to St Peter Chanel. Each window has a theme. We follow them day by day.





## OBLATIO (offering)

We know the life of Peter Chanel. His early desire to be a missionary, his option for the Marist life, the departure as a missionary to Futuna, and his life there ending in his brutal murder by Musumus – we can see all of this as a gift offered to us.

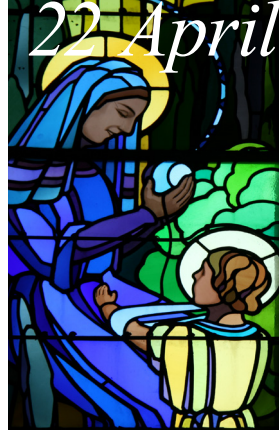
Jesus said, "There is no greater love than to give your life for your friends" (John 15, 13). Lord, renew in us the sense that we too have given our life as a gift. The Marist religious life is a life that is given away. We ask that young people may discover the joy of such a path. Peter Chanel opens the way for us.



## QUIES ET LUDUS (rest and play)

When he was a teacher at Belley, Peter Chanel knew the value of play and rest. The periods of recreation at the college were long and lively. During the journey of more than 10 months from Le Havre to Futuna, rest and play were part of his daily existence, even if we don't know the details.

Jesus said, "Come away with me to a deserted spot and take a little rest" (Mark 6:31). Give us, O Lord, the gift of knowing how to take rest. Revive in us a childlike spirit and love of play.



## PIETAS (piety, diligence)

Peter Chanel did not run away from long eventless days - on the ship on his way to Oceania, on Futuna where he couldn't speak the language. Despite everything, he just kept going.

Jesus said, "It is by your perseverance that you will save your life" (Luke 21:19). Grant us, Lord, to be like St Peter Chanel and not to be discouraged in adversity. Give us the strength of your Spirit to live day by day our commitment to follow you.



## ORATIO (prayer)

Brother Marie-Nizier recounts how, the day before they settled in Futuna, they returned to their boat late, after midnight. Peter Chanel started immediately to pray his breviary. His Bishop,

Mgr Pompallier, told him firmly to get some rest.

Paul wrote to the Thessalonians: "Pray without ceasing, give thanks in every circumstance: it's God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1Th 5, 17-18). Lord grant us to be faithful to our daily prayer. Teach us gratitude.



## ZELUS (zeal)

Peter Chanel threw himself generously into his life as a priest, as a teacher in the college at Belley and as a missionary on Futuna. He went on even when things were not promising.

Jesus said, "Give and you will receive a full measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out for others is the amount you will be given back" (Luke 6, 38). Lord, give us this same generosity in our mission, our community life or our family.



## LABOR (work)

Peter Chanel worked throughout his life. On Futuna, he painstakingly studied the local language in order to be able to communicate with his new neighbours. Daily, regular work was part of his life.

Paul wrote to the Thessalonians: "If someone does not want to work, neither should he be given food to eat" (2Th 3, 10). Lord grant us the gift of getting on with our work calmly and conscientiously. Free us from all slavery and let our daily work be a service to you.