

Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.” They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, “Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.” What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Magnificat

My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.

He looks on his servant in her lowliness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him.

He puts forth his arm in strength and scatters the proud-hearted. He casts the mighty from their thrones and raises the lowly. He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy, the mercy promised to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children for ever

Intercessions & Lord's Prayer

Final Prayer: Holy God, we praise your name that you chose Mary to be your Mother and now choose us to bear her name.

In the footsteps of those first Marist aspirants at Fourvière, we commit ourselves to work for a Marian Church, a poor, serving, lowly Church that searches only after Jesus Christ.

May we think as Mary, feel as Mary, judge and act as Mary in all things so that we may be more effective instruments of your love and mercy in our world.

We make this prayer through Christ, Our Lord.

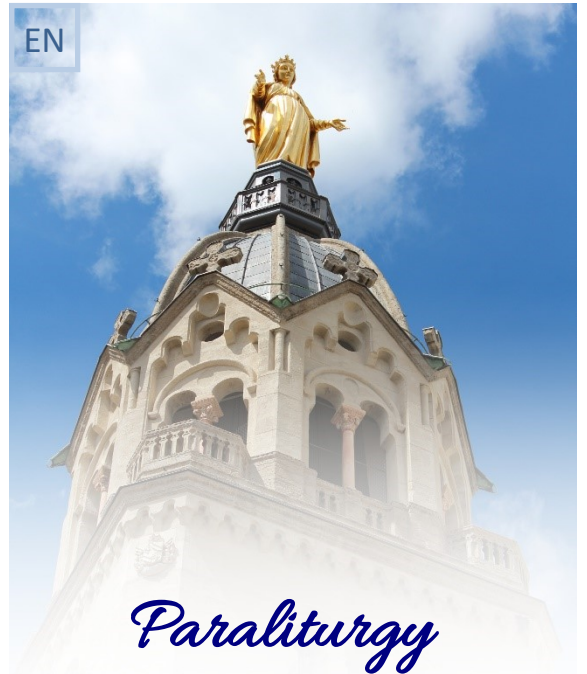
*'They must think as Mary, judge as Mary,
feel and act as Mary in all things'*

*'Hidden and Unknown in the world:
there's no other way of doing good'
(Jean-Claude Colin)*

*'Mary simply lived the life of the people'
(Jeanne-Marie Chavoïn)*

*'Let there be among you just one mind
and one heart'
(Marcellin Champagnat)*

EN



Paraliturgy honouring Our Lady of Fourvière

and the pledge to form
the Society of Mary
Jul 23, 1816

Gerard Hall SM

Background

On the day after their ordination, twelve Marist aspirants, including St Marcellin Champagnat & Venerable Jean-Claude Colin, climbed the steep steps to the top of the hill of Fourvière, Lyons, and there, in the small chapel dedicated to Our Lady, they promised to work for the foundation of a new religious movement: a group called Mary-ists, whose work in the church would resemble that of the Jesuits, but whose life and ministry would be based on Mary's way of being faithful to the Lord from Nazareth to Pentecost.

Marists regard this event as the foundational moment in the birth of the Society of Mary in its manifold forms (brothers, sisters, laity, priests).

The Pledge

- We, striving to work together for the glory of God and the honour of Mary, Mother of the Lord Jesus ... consecrate ourselves to founding the most holy congregation of Mary-ists.
- We dedicate ourselves and all we have to the Society of the Blessed Virgin.
- We do this not in the fervour of youth, not lightly, not from some purely human ambition, nor for the hope of material gain, but maturely, after seeking advice, and after weighing everything before God.
- We accept hardships, toil, difficulties and extreme suffering since, with the help of Jesus who gives us strength, there is nothing we cannot master.
- We pledge fidelity to our mother the Church, the pope and bishops, that we may be effective ministers of Jesus Christ.



Four Marist Founders with Mary & Child-Jesus

- We will give ourselves and all we have for the salvation of souls in the august name of the Virgin Mary and under her protection.
- May the holy and immaculate conception of the Blessed Virgin be praised. Amen.

The Founders speak...

Marcellin Champagnat: “My experience made me convinced of the need for teachers who lived in a Christian way like Mary. That’s what drew me to the plan of a Society of Mary, and there was nothing I wasn’t ready to sacrifice for that plan.... But, you know, it’s all the work of Our Lady....”

Jean-Claude Colin: “To be alone with God was more important to me than anything else. But there was another idea that kept coming back to me as a master-thought. What did Mary do in the Church after the Ascension?”

Jeanne-Marie Chavoin: “The world, to me, was a friendly place where you acted for the Lord in a simple & matter-of-fact way. Imitating the family of Nazareth didn’t mean staying in the house with Jesus, Mary & Joseph. Nazareth was the whole town, where Mary simply lived the life of the people ... and went about doing good.”

Françoise Perroton: “The congregation began as a clear call from a group of women.... Can you imagine what a leap in the dark it was for a woman my age to go to the ends of the earth for the sake of a mission? God alone knows how I struggled with discouragement and even despair.”

Prayer: Holy Virgin of Fourvière, you have smiled down in love over the centuries on your people who have journeyed as pilgrims to your shrine. As you looked with love into the hearts of the first Marists who made their consecration, look into our hearts and awaken in us a fresh sense of our Marist calling. May we be united more fully to the heart of your Church and to the people we serve. We make our prayer as pilgrims with you, Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Gospel: [*John 2:1-12*]

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They have no more wine.” “Woman, why do you involve me?” Jesus replied. “My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”