

## 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....”

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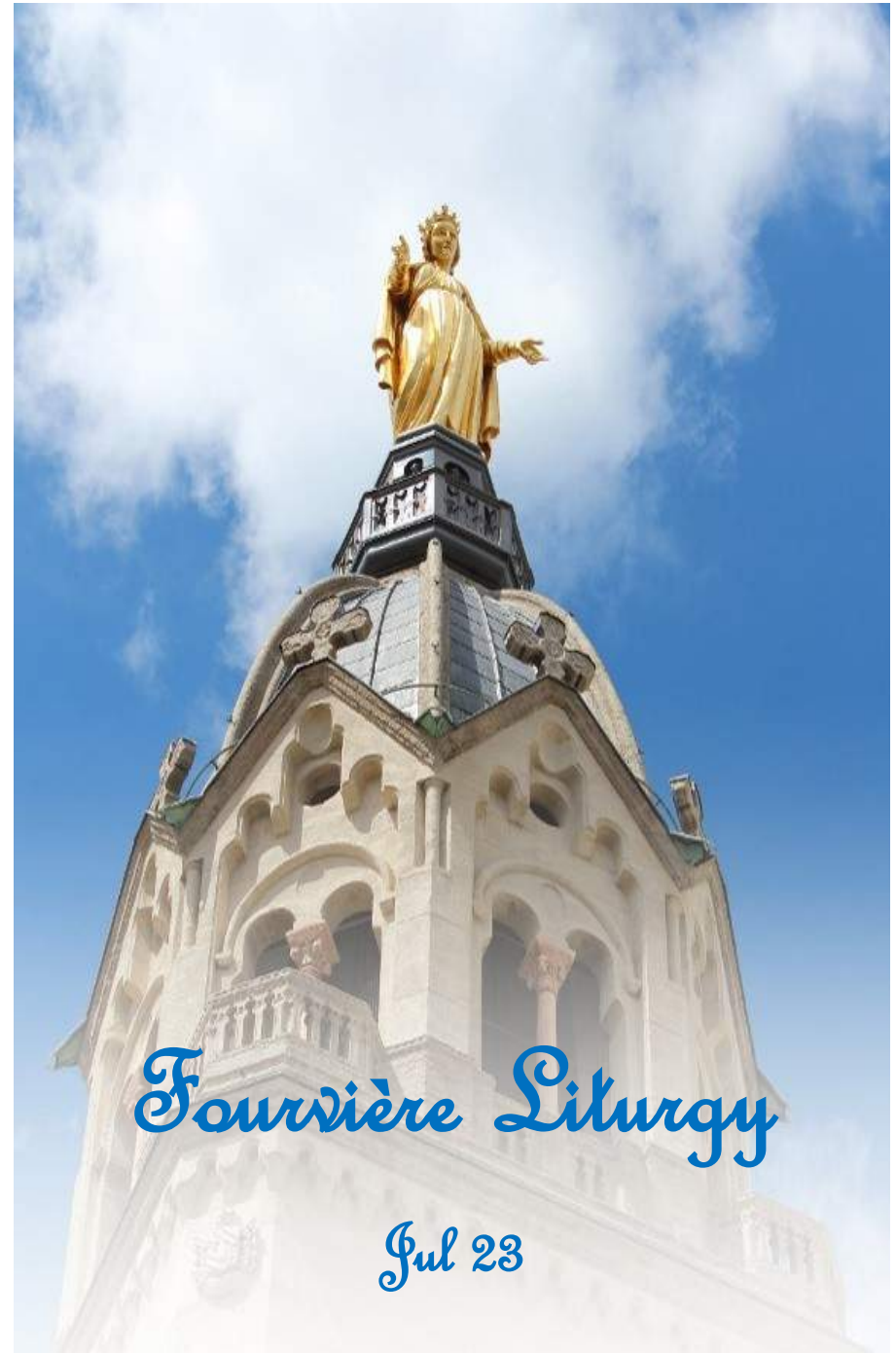
**Jean-Claude Colin:** “To be alone with God was more important to me than anything else. But there was another idea that kept coming back to me as a master-thought. What did Mary do in the Church after the Ascension?”

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**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.”

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**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.”



**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, on Jul 23, 1816, 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.

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### **Opening Song or Entrance Antiphon:**

Blessed are you, O Virgin Mary, by the Lord God Most High, above all women on earth; for he has so exalted your name that your praise shall be undying on our lips.

### **Opening Prayer**

Grant, we pray, almighty God, to look upon the lowliness of your servants who live and work under the name of Mary; do great things through us, filling us with the spirit of our Mother so that, not seeking our own interests but those of Christ alone, we may lead our fellow men and women to the light of the Gospel. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever

### **First Reading** Acts 1:12-14

The apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying.

Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. *The Word of the Lord*

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on us and remain with us for ever. **R. Amen.**

### **Closing song**

Hail, Queen of Heav'n, the ocean Star,  
Guide of the wand'rer here below!  
Thrown on life's surge we claim thy care,  
Save us from peril and from woe.  
Mother of Christ, Star of the sea,  
Pray for the wanderer, pray for me  
  
O gentle, chaste, and spotless Maid,  
We sinners make our prayers through thee  
Remind thy Son that He has paid  
The price of our iniquity.  
Virgin most pure, Star of the sea,  
Pray for the sinner, pray for me.



For she received your Word in the purity of her heart and conceived him in her virgin's womb; she fostered the first beginnings of the Church by giving birth to Christ its Head and Founder; she accepted your parting gift of love as she stood beside the Cross and so became the Mother of all the living, her children brought to new life through the death of her Son.

One in prayer with the Apostles as they waited for the promised gift of your Spirit, she became the perfect pattern of the Church at prayer; raised to the glory of heaven, she cares for the pilgrim Church with a mother's love, following its progress homewards until the day of the Lord dawns in splendour.

And so, with the company of Angels and Saints, we sing the hymn of your praise, as without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .

#### **Communion Song or Antiphon:**

All generations will call me blessed, for God has looked on his lowly handmaid.

#### **Prayer after Communion**

O Lord, you have strengthened us at the table of your Word and Sacrament, grant that following in Mary's footsteps we may be hidden and unknown in this world so that the figure of Christ may manifest himself to others in us. Through Christ our Lord.

#### **Solemn Blessing**

God our all-powerful Father has bestowed on us the name of Mary. In keeping with her example at Nazareth, may we listen with attentiveness to his Word and carry it to fulfilment in all we do. **R. Amen.**

He has given us the Early Church as the only model of our life together: may he make us one in heart and mind with our brothers and sisters. **R. Amen,**

And so, joyfully doing the Father's will, trusting in the power of Christ alone, may we prepare the way for the coming of the Kingdom. **R. Amen.**

#### **Responsorial Psalm** Ps 112: 1-6

*Resp:* From the rising of the sun to its setting, praise the name of the Lord

Blessed are those who fear the Lord,  
who find great delight in his commands

Their children will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed. *Resp..*

Wealth and riches are in their houses,  
and their righteousness endures forever.

Even in darkness light dawns for the upright,  
for those who are gracious and compassionate and righteous. *Resp..*

#### **Alleluia Verse**

Alleluia, alleluia. Blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled; Alleluia.

#### **Gospel** John 19: 25-28

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. *The Gospel of the Lord*



## Prayers of Intercession

1. We give thanks for the gracious call we have received to bear the name of Mary, and we ask her guidance as we continue the shaping of our family of Marists. We pray to the Lord...
2. We pray for confidence, enthusiasm and generosity for our part in the mission of our Church. We pray to the Lord...
3. We remember those who support us in our Marist life. May God's delight be revealed to our benefactors and to all who walk with us on our journey. We pray to the Lord...
4. We hold up to you the young members of our congregations in their years of formation. Fill them with the spirit of the Gospel and of Mary and give each a true missionary heart. We pray to the Lord...
5. We pray for the leaders of our congregations. Give them true wisdom, confidence and strength. We pray to the Lord...
6. We pray in thanks for the great witness of our holy Founders, Jean-Claude Colin, Jeanne-Marie Chavoin, Marcellin Champagnat, Françoise Perroton and those whose lives have touched and inspired us. May they rejoice forever in your eternal and loving presence. We pray to the Lord...

*Leader:* As the pioneer Marists of Fourvière pledged their lives to do the will of God in the spirit of Mary, we offer these prayers with confidence in the one whose spirit we wish to work, through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

## Prayer over the Offerings

Accept our gifts, O Lord, and enlighten our hearts and minds with you Spirit, so that like Mary we may cling to Christ your Son, living for him alone and pleasing to him in all things. Through Christ our Lord.

## Preface

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, and to praise, bless, and glorify your name as we honour the Most Holy Name of Mary.

