

Fourvière Novena: Day 6 – 19 July 2016

1. A reading from a **homily by Pope Francis**, 17 March 2013

It is not easy to entrust oneself to God's mercy, because it is an abyss beyond our comprehension. But we must! ... "Oh, I am a great sinner." "All the better! Go to Jesus: He likes you to tell him these things!" He forgets. He has a very special capacity for forgetting. He forgets, He kisses you. He embraces you and He simply says to you: "Neither do I condemn you; go, and sin no more" (Jn 8:11)

2. A reading from **Water From The Rock**, 25, 26

The relationship of Marcellin to Mary was deeply marked by an affective and total trust in her, as the "Good Mother," because it was her work that he undertook.



He wrote once:

*Without Mary we are nothing and with Mary we have everything,
because Mary always has her adorable Son within her arms or in her heart.*

This belief remained constant all through his life. Jesus and Mary were the treasure on which Marcellin had learned to place his own heart. This intimate relationship helped shape the Marial dimension of our spirituality. In our tradition, the phrase, "Ordinary Resource" has come to encapsulate our constant reliance on Mary. The motto attributed to Champagnat by his biographer, All to Jesus through Mary, all the Mary for Jesus, captures this close relationship between the Son and the Mother and our Founder's attitude of confidence in Mary, which we are invited to live.

We share in the spiritual motherhood of Mary, as we take our part in bringing Christ-life to the world of those whose lives we share. We nurture that life in the ecclesial community, whose communion we strengthen through fervent prayer and generous service.

3. Prayer

Mary, of Fourvière, show us what love is
and from where it draws its origin and its constantly renewed power.
Holy Mary, good Mother of Fourvière,
you have given the world its true light, Jesus, your Son - the Son of God.
You abandoned yourself completely to God's call
and this became a wellspring of the goodness which flows forth from him.
You inspired the first Marists
to create a Society dedicated to showing the Marian face of the Church.
Show us Jesus. Lead us to him.
Teach us to know and love him,
so that we too can become capable of true love
and be fountains of living water in the midst of a thirsting world.
Amen.