

Fourvière Novena: Day 7 – 20 July 2016

1. A reading from **The Church of Mercy** by Pope Francis, 2014

Only a faithful and intense relationship with God makes it possible to get out of our own closedness and proclaim the Gospel with parrhesia. Without prayer our acts are empty and our proclamation has no soul; it is not inspired by the Spirit.

2. A reading from the **Rules of Mother Mary Denyse**, Art V, pp. 120, 121, 122

Sister Mary Denyse was one of the first formators of the Marist Missionary Sisters who, after missionary experience in Wallis, took the Rule written by Fr Raffin and added to it a Directory for the Sisters of the Third Order Regular of Mary. This directory was to be used in the formation of generations of sisters and remained in force until the pontifical approval of the Congregation in 1931.

The life of a perfect Christian is not simply a hidden life, but a life hidden with Christ in God, which shows us that its source is intimate and constant union with God.

And what is this union? It is the soul, interiorly absorbed with God and the things of God through the exercise of habitual prayer; it is the soul contemplating God, longing for God, waiting on God alone for all it desires, bringing back to God all it undertakes. Peace, silence and solitude of heart characterise such a life. The soul alone with God alone, enveloped, as it were, in God's fatherly embrace, delighting in the most sublime communication with Him. The soul speaks to God, questions, listens, responds and above all focuses all its affections on God alone in an incomparable act of love, joyfully putting before God all its desires. And while the soul laments that it still feels so far distant from God, it rejoices in coming closer to Him more and more each day.



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.