

## Fourvière Novena: Day 8 – 21 July 2016

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

What a beautiful truth of faith this is for our lives: the mercy of God! God's love for us is so great, so deep; it is an unfailing love, one which always takes us by the hand and supports us, lifts us up and leads us on.

### 2. A reading from Jeanne-Marie Chavoin's *Recollections of Mother St Joseph*, Doc. 108

*After many trying years, Jeanne-Marie Chavoin, or Mother St Joseph as she was known, tendered her resignation as Superior General of the Marist Sisters. The last years of her life were spent at Jarnosse, a village not far from where she had grown up. There she led a small group of Sisters in bringing about a transformation in the lives of the villagers, "in bringing a little warmth to our famished people" – as a visitor to the area put it (RMJ 223:2). She was weighed down, however, by financial worries, incurred through the building of a school. Illness set in after a long walk in the snow to borrow money. When the Foundress knew she was dying she spoke at length with her niece, Thérèse Millot (Sr Thérèse de Jésus), who was living in the same community at Jarnosse. Thérèse reported these words to Sr Jean Chrysostome.*

Look child, she is your mother.

Simplicity, the very greatest simplicity should be your only ornament...

A Marist sister's sole desire should be to imitate the little family at Nazareth...

Always be a bond of union between your sisters so that all may have but one heart and one soul...

*These words of the dying Foundress show us what mattered most to her:*

- 1. The place of the person of Mary in our lives*
- 2. The virtue which is the hallmark of Marists*
- 3. Our communion with one another.*

### 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.

