



*Pray earnestly to the Blessed Virgin
that she may be your only Mother.
(Saint Louise)*

Marian Prayer Service

Saturday, 20 November 2021

Tonight, on the eve of the Tenth General Assembly's closing, we wish to place ourselves under God's gaze, recognizing the fidelity of his love and acknowledging the Virgin Mary's protection. Through the intercession of our holy Founders, let us give thanks to God and entrust to him the continuation of the journey.

Hymn: Laudate Dominum, laudate Dominum, omnes gentes, Alleluia !

WORD OF GOD: Luke 1:39-42, 45-46

During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb ... Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." And Mary said:

*Hymn: Magnificat, magnificat, magnificat anima mea Dominum.
Magnificat, magnificat, magnificat anima mea.*

Let us set out with unreserved confidence under Mary's maternal guidance. May she obtain for us from her Son to live *Ephata! Break through the gate... Go towards... Encounter*, in our daily life, and sing our Magnificat too:

*Hymn: Magnificat, magnificat, magnificat anima mea Dominum.
Magnificat, magnificat, magnificat anima mea.*

Lord, through Mary, may we be credible signs of your presence by the coherence of our life that challenges young people and makes possible the Gospel's proclamation.

*R/ Ephata, ouvre-nous, Seigneur, pour sortir et rencontrer !
Ephata, ouvre-nous, Seigneur, guide-nous !
[Ephata, open us, Lord, to go out and meet!
Ephata, open us, Lord, guide us!]*

Lord, through Mary, we present you all our communities. Thank you for having called and assembled us to share the richness of our differences

and, together, to witness to you. May we always cultivate “living well together” with our Sisters and everyone, building universal relationships.

*R/ Ephata, ouvre-nous, Seigneur, pour sortir et rencontrer !
Ephata, ouvre-nous, Seigneur, guide-nous !*

Lord, through Mary, give us a true concern for caring for our “common home.” May our lifestyle be simple and may we have a contemplative regard on your creation.

*R/ Ephata, ouvre-nous, Seigneur, pour sortir et rencontrer !
Ephata, ouvre-nous, Seigneur, guide-nous !*

Lord, through Mary we present to you all the persons who are poor to whom you send us. Thank you for having called us to serve you in them. May their rights be recognized and may our service, in collaboration with others, truly be an expression of your love for them.

*R/ Ephata, ouvre-nous, Seigneur, pour sortir et rencontrer !
Ephata, ouvre-nous, Seigneur, guide-nous !*

Mary, only Mother of the Company, with a symbolic gesture we now desire to place in your hands the whole Company, each province, each Daughter of Charity, persons who are poor, and the entire world.

O Marie conçue sans péché, priez pour nous qui avons recours à vous.

Music (the Visitatrices come forward to put the names of the provinces in the globe)

In her account of her pilgrimage to Chartres in October 1644, Saint Louise wrote, “*Looking upon the Blessed Virgin as the fulfillment of the promises of God to mankind ..., I asked Him for the grace of fidelity for the Company through the merits of the Blood of the Son of God and of Mary. I prayed also that He might be the strong and loving bond that unites the hearts of all the sisters in imitation of the union of the three Divine Persons...*”

In the footsteps of Saint Louise, let us pray ... (Act of Consecration)

O IMMACULATE MARY, following in the footsteps of Saint Louise,

we have come to implore you
to consider the little Company of today,
with its weaknesses and its good will, as totally “yours.”

You are “our only Mother.”

We beg you to remember this always.

Assured of your love and mercy,
we trust that you will obtain for us fidelity to the Spirit
and the grace of spiritual discernment
to be today truly
in Christ’s service in persons who are poor,
and the grace of union among us to be truly missionary.

Help us all to embark resolutely
on the path of an authentic conversion.

May the living out of the evangelical counsels
of poverty, chastity, and obedience
sustain our will to be completely given to God
to serve him corporally and spiritually
in the person of the poor.

O Virgin Mary, keep the entire Company under your protection
in total acceptance of God’s designs on it.

We recommend to you the suffering provinces.

May the Daughters of Charity everywhere be witnesses of the
Gospel and of the Love of Jesus Christ. AMEN

Salve, Regina, mater misericordiae;
vita, dulcedo et spes nostra, salve.
Ad te clamamus, exsules filii Evae,
ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes
in hac lacrimarum valle.
Eia ergo, advocata nostra,
illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos converte.
Et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,
nobis post hoc exilium ostende.
O clemens, o pia, o dulcis Virgo Maria!