

Celebration of Fourvière

July 23rd



Intentions

We pray that our lives continue to reflect Mary's presence in our world.

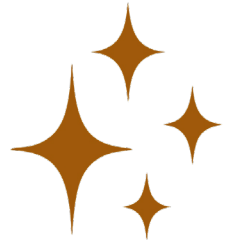
That we rise to the call to follow in the footsteps of the early Marists of Fourvière.

To be filled with hope and enthusiasm and commit to the challenges of our Marist mission.

For what else shall we pray...

Opening Prayer

Dear God,
Guide us as we seek new possibilities,
help us explore new realities,
encourage us to always keep the poor and excluded in our hearts,
and give us the courage to be a presence of Mary in our Church and world today.
Amen.



We Listen

On the day after their ordination, on July 23, 1816, twelve Marist aspirants, including Marcellin Champagnat and Jean-Claude Colin, climbed the steep steps to the top of the hill of Fourvière, Lyons. 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 life and ministry would be based on Mary's way of being faithful to God.

The commitment they made came to life in the birth of the Marist family and as such we are encouraged to know that everyday thousands of Marists wake up around the world willing to be the Good News in the lives of countless people.

We Reflect

We are the heirs of the Pledge of Fourvière and we know that "it is not about arriving, but rather about setting out" as says Francois Drouilly sm. He is repeating in a few words what Saint John Paul II said in *Vita Consecrata no. 110*: "You have not only a glorious history to remember and to recount, but also a great history still to be accomplished! Look to the future, where the Spirit is sending you in order to do even greater things."

As a Marist, what are your deepest desires moving into the future?

We Respond

We are charged with enkindling that fire of Fourivère; with the challenge of giving birth to Christ in this day and age; with believing the words of the pledge: *“because we can do things in him who strengthens us, Jesus Christ.”* It is Fourivère where we can find the reason for our existence because it is where Mary is at the centre and it is to Mary we entrust ourselves.



Closing Prayer

Dear God,

We pray in thanks for the great witness of our holy Founders, Jean-Claude Colin, Jeanne-Marie Chavoïn, Marcellin Champagnat, Françoise Perroton and those whose lives have touched and inspired us. 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. Amen.

Mary our Good Mother...*pray for us*
St Marcellin Champagnat...*pray for us*
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop...*pray for us*
And let us always remember...*to pray for one another*

