



Conseil Mondial de la Famille Marianiste

Via Latina 22, 00179 Roma, Italia – www.marianist.org
Tel (+39) 06 70 47 58 92 – FAX (+39) 06 7000 406

World Council of the Marianist Family Consejo Mundial de la Familia Marianista

Mary's Faith, Icon of the Faith of the Marianist Family Marian Celebration, October 1, 2017, Bordeaux

Entrance Hymn: The first on the road...

The first one on the road, Mary, you take us along
To risk our "yes" to the unforeseen actions of God
And thus, is sown, in the unstable clay of our humanity,
Jesus Christ, Son of God,

O Mary, Walk with us on our paths of faith They are the ways to God (repeat)

From Pope Benedict XVI: "Mother of 'yes,' you who heard Jesus, speak to us of him; tell us of your journey, that we may follow him on the path of faith; help us to proclaim him, that each person may welcome him and become the dwelling place of God."¹

May it be so for each of us!

Mary, you are Jewish, one of the *anawim* of the Lord, like Hannah the mother of Samuel, and even closer to you, like Joseph, Ann, Joachim, John the Baptist. The poor who put all their trust in God alone, for he alone works marvels. Nothing is impossible for him. Such is your faith, O Mary, your pathway of faith!

(Repeat the refrain: O Mary, Walk with us)

*From the age of 14, 15, God made you a part of his unheard of plan: "Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord is with you." The messenger reassures you in your perplexity: "Do not be afraid, Mary you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ... he will be called the Son of the Most High." After a few questions, Mary, you understand and you remember that "nothing is impossible for God." Then "Let it be with me according to your Word," and you make a leap into the unknown, into the upending of your life plans, knowing practically nothing of what destiny awaits you.



¹ Benedict XVI, Homily in Loretto, October 4, 2012, one week before the opening of the Year of Faith.



Conseil Mondial de la Famille Marianiste

Via Latina 22, 00179 Roma, Italia – www.marianist.org
Tel (+39) 06 70 47 58 92 – FAX (+39) 06 7000 406

World Council of the Marianist Family
Consejo Mundial de la Familia Marianista

- *O Mary, teach us to make **that leap into the unknown** when we are in situations in which we can't understand anything, but in which the Father is making unforeseen calls upon us.*

(Music: panpipes)



*You can't keep that joy only to yourself, so you leave "with haste to go into the hill country ..." (Luke 1:39-56). "Fashioned by the Holy Spirit," the Council tells us,² you go to meet your older cousin and to be of service to her. The Holy Spirit spreads throughout the household. The two children communicate their joy. Elizabeth cries out: "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord" (Luke 1:45).

- *O Mary, share with us **the joy of your faith**, make all of us missionaries, at the service of our brothers and sisters, whoever they may be.*

(Taizé chant: Magnificat (2x), Magnificat anima mea Dominum (2x))

*That child you bear within you, you know is a pure gift from God, the master of life; in fact, you told the messenger "I do not know man" (Luke 1:34), and now nine months have passed since that day. You give birth to the Son of God as foretold, and place him in a manger; what poverty! ... but you are filled with wonder, with adoration, because you know that God never reverses himself. You give thanks for that marvel. Your sense of wonder is joined to that of the shepherds, the poor.

*O Mary, our mother, grant us **the wonderment of faith** before what God does in our lives and in the lives of our brothers and sisters.*

**(Hymn: you are the God who made us, who formed us out of the earth
Every person is a sacred history, the human being is in the image of God)**

*Eight days after his birth, you and Joseph are careful to fulfill all the laws concerning your child. Faith in the Word of God that comes through fidelity and obedience to the Torah. "Your Law is within my heart," says the psalm (Ps 40:8). You were careful to fulfill all the rituals required as **signs of belonging** to the chosen people, to their tradition, their culture and their religion: circumcision, celebration of name-giving, consecration of the first-born, teaching of the basics of the Jewish faith. Joseph your husband will continue the education of your son as his first rabbi.

- *O Virgin Mary,*

² Vatican II, *Lumen Gentium*, 56.



Conseil Mondial de la Famille Marianiste

Via Latina 22, 00179 Roma, Italia - www.marianist.org
Tel (+39) 06 70 47 58 92 - FAX (+39) 06 7000 406

World Council of the Marianist Family
Consejo Mundial de la Familia Marianista

teach us the **obedience of faith** that is not limited merely to what is required, but the interior appropriation in order to discover and penetrate that which gives it meaning.
(Jewish Music: Jewish violin: Jewish music: youtube)



*You lived a hidden life in Nazareth for 30 years of intimacy with your Son who was God. The education that occurred was reciprocal. We might apply to you the words of St. John in his first Letter: “What I have heard, what I have seen with my own eyes, what I have looked upon and touched with my own hands concerning the Word of life” (1 Jn 1:1). In faith, through faith, you walk, you grow in knowledge of that Son. Jesus discovers in his Mother and in Joseph the truth about what it means to be human through his ordinary everyday experiences: glances, smiles, gestures, words, silences, the tender delicacies of family life. You needed, as indeed did Jesus, those 30 years of life together in order to gain more awareness of your mission and to enter little by little into the mystery of that Only Son sent by the Father.

- O Mary, show us **the humility of faith**. No absolute certitude, discovery, progression, movement along the way, doubts, darkness.

(Gregorian: Christus factus est pro nobis obediens ... mortem autem crucis: youtube)

*When Jesus had reached the age of 12, you went with Joseph up to the Temple for the Feast of Passover (Lk 2:40ff), and for his *bar mitzvah*. Jesus became an adult in view of the Law, he chose to practice his faith. “Don’t you know that I must be about my Father’s business?” You don’t understand, Mary, but you continue to keep all these things in your heart, in faith, hope and love. To keep means: to throw in together, to place together, to compare, to ponder, to contemplate, to seek meaning, to meditate (Lk 2:19, 51). To say it another way, you put your intelligence at the service of your faith and your faith at the service of your intelligence, as John Paul II invites us to do in his encyclical *Fides et ratio*.

- O Mary, enrich our coal-minor’s faith, so that our **intelligence** might help us to penetrate the faith of Jesus, Son of God become your son for the salvation of the world.

(organ music)

* At Cana you show yourself bold, even provocative, in your solidarity with the wedding guests. Your faith assures you that Jesus will do something. What? You don’t know, but in your total confidence you know that nothing is impossible for God. “Do whatever he tells you,” just as at the Annunciation (Lk 1:38) and like the people at the foot of Sinai: “All that the Lord has spoken we will do and we will be obedient” (Ex 24:7).



Conseil Mondial de la Famille Marianiste

Via Latina 22, 00179 Roma, Italia – www.marianist.org
Tel (+39) 06 70 47 58 92 – FAX (+39) 06 7000 406

World Council of the Marianist Family
Consejo Mundial de la Familia Marianista

The boldness of faith allows for great things, O Mary. Following your example may we be bold and provocative Christians, wide awake Christians like Pope Francis is asking for.

Hymn: Gathered by the Spirit to form a single body, here we are O Lord!

Called by the Spirit to give our lives, here we are, O Lord!

Throughout the Church in the entire world, brothers and sisters unceasingly sent to light up the Joy of the Gospel, Missionaries of Mary, we do whatever Jesus tells us

*But faith has problems, ruptures. A woman in the crowd, certainly a mother herself, cries out: "Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you" (Lk 11:27-28). That was a way of saying: "That son, what a success!" Jesus responds "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it." I see there Jesus praising you both biologically and spiritually. A Son's praise of his mother: woman of faith. Another time he will *castigate* those among the Pharisees who talk but don't do: "do whatever they teach you and follow it, but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach" (Mt 23:2-3).

-Teach us, O Mary, to persevere in trials and against all difficulties, breaks, doubts, whatever they be.

**(Hymn: Who is God if he comes along our paths beside us
Who is God, who comes without losing heart, to our table L 82-2)**

* During the life of Jesus you see the opposition growing against him, you also see all the good he does on the roads of Palestine, so you do not understand, you walk with your Son the streets of Jerusalem, under the yelling of the crowd. That body fixed to the wood is your body, that blood which flows through all the pores of his skin, is your blood. Everything seems to be collapsing. You continue to trust, you believe. In that darkness you remain loyal to the person of this Son. "Standing near the Cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary, the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene" (Jn 19:25). That word "standing" describes just by itself all the greatness, the dignity of your faith. That "standing" is the word of Resurrection because at that time the expression does not exist yet. (Is 26:19, 51:17, 60:1). You certainly remember, at that very hour, the words of Simeon when your child was forty days old: "He is destined for the falling or rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed" (Lk 2:34), "And a sword will pierce your own heart as well" (Lk 2:35). At the foot of the Cross, Jesus confirms your greatness as Mother, he gives us to you, for he knows that with you the path is sure. "Seeing the mother and the disciple whom he loved, Jesus said to his mother, 'Behold your son,' and to John, 'Behold your mother!'" (John 19:26f). Mary, you gave birth to your first-born in joy and to your other children in pain in sheer faith. Two Annunciations: that of your Son and that of his brothers and sisters.

*- Grant that we, the Marianist family, might believe in and against everything in these difficult times, might know **the night of faith** and want to keep total trust in your son.*



Conseil Mondial de la Famille Marianiste

Via Latina 22, 00179 Roma, Italia - www.marianist.org
Tel (+39) 06 70 47 58 92 - FAX (+39) 06 7000 406

World Council of the Marianist Family
Consejo Mundial de la Familia Marianista

(Absolute silence)

* We know nothing about that Holy Saturday of your life, Mary. We may think that in silence you were seeing and revisiting all the signs your son had done along the roads of Palestine. Having always believed in your Son, you did not need, I think, an extraordinary sign, an encounter like that of Jesus with the Apostles and the Holy Women, whose faith has staggered and is still staggering at this moment. In any case, you were not among the women running to the tomb on that Easter morning. The encounter with the Risen One is all inward, invisible, but O how deep! You do not seek the living One among the dead, you know without seeing, from the certainty of your faith.



- O Mary, teach us the **silence of faith** in our lives in order to remember those important moments so as to give thanks and to move on.

(Musical Silence)

* It is also your silent presence in the Cenacle where, as a "joyous mother of children" (Ps 113: 9) in the midst of the disciples, you wait for your Son's promise in absolute faith and interiority: "I am sending upon you what my Father promised. So stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high" (Lk 24:49, Acts 1: 8). You, full of grace, filled with the Holy Spirit, are in solidarity with your new children received from your only son at the foot of the Cross. At this moment we become aware through the Scriptures of what the Church of Jesus Christ looks like, how it can be recognized by its prayer, its unity, its communion, and by your presence as it awaits the Holy Spirit who gives the strength to go forth and announce the Good News ... without which there is no Church (Acts 1: 13-14).

- O Mary, give us **the interior spirit** of silence and of openness for welcoming what the Spirit wants to give us today for the good of each and every one of us.

(Peaceful Organ)

* We belong to that community, now much broader than the Twelve. A community that saw the Risen Lord. It is as a body, an assembly of believers gathered together in the name of Jesus, that the Spirit is given to us. The Spirit fills the whole house, we are seized together and from this fullness each receives his share and we go forth to announce, "This Jesus God raised up, and of that, all of us are witnesses" (Acts 2:32), "... who ate and drank with Him, after he rose from the dead "(Acts 10:41). At the heart of this Church you do



Conseil Mondial de la Famille Marianiste

Via Latina 22, 00179 Roma, Italia - www.marianist.org
Tel (+39) 06 70 47 58 92 -- FAX (+39) 06 7000 406

World Council of the Marianist Family
Consejo Mundial de la Familia Marianista

not preach as Peter does, but you are the living memory transfigured by the Spirit, the privileged witness of the Mysteries of your Son. "You are at the heart of the Church and you are its Mother," Paul VI tells us.

- *O Mary, make us your **bold**, creative, inventive missionaries for today.*

(Go out into the whole world, making disciples of all peoples. Alleluia! Amen!)

* Christ could not let you know corruption: "I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure. For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit" (Ps 16: 8-10). Mary, filled with grace from all eternity, you were carried away body and soul into eternal Glory, into the vision of Mystery, you pass into life. In this glory, O Mary, you are always at the heart of the Church, at the heart of our lives. You continue to visit your children just as you used to. You receive each of us to form a son, a daughter, into the image of the firstborn.

- *O Mary, we too will live in Glory with the Father, the Son and the Spirit, our day will come, help us to continue our journey, as we wait for that face to face encounter*

Hymn: Mary crowned with stars

We salute you Our Lady, holy Virgin Mary clothed with the sun

Crowned with stars, the moon is under your feet, in you we are given

The dawn of salvation

O Immaculate Virgin, preserved from sin, in your soul, in your body, you enter the heavens Carried away into glory, Holy Queen of heaven, You will one day call us to God

Our faith is Marian, that is, adherence to a living person, Christ your son. To believe like you and with you, Mary, in prayer and interiority: a faith that takes risks, gives joy, that walks the path, that is bold, knowing the night, the doubts and the questions, but which is dynamic in the service of the brothers and sisters, which little by little surrenders totally to the will of Him who is Love and which thus brings forth Christ in oneself and in the other.

Let us conclude our prayer with Adèle and Chaminade, and then with Pope Benedict XVI:

- *from Adèle de Batz in 1813, age 24:*

"Let us inspire ourselves, dear friend, by the example of the saints, who have sanctified themselves on the same occasions that cause us to stumble incessantly. Let us revive our faith, our zeal, our love. Let us become saints, whatever it costs us!"

- *from Chaminade, Sp.F. 498,2.3*

"True faith is a gift from God, let us ask for it insistently, that lively, ardent faith, that faith of love. But when He does give it to us, let us not misuse it, but let us become better, fulfilling his commandments in order to possess it, and let us be faithful when we have it. To be faithful is to act according to this gift of faith. "

- *from Pope Benedict XVI*



Conseil Mondial de la Famille Marianiste

Via Latina 22, 00179 Roma, Italia – www.marianist.org
Tel (+39) 06 70 47 58 92 – FAX (+39) 06 7000 406

World Council of the Marianist Family
Consejo Mundial de la Familia Marianista

"Dear friends, our times need Christians who have been seized by Christ, who grow in faith through their familiarity with Holy Scripture and the Sacraments. People who are like an open book that tells of the experience of the new life in the Spirit, the presence of this God who sustains us on the way and opens us up to the life that will never end. " Let us set out on the highways of the world in alliance with Mary!

(Song: May the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary)

ORGAN



Conseil Mondial de la Famille Marianiste

Via Latina 22, 00179 Roma, Italia - www.marianist.org
Tel (+39) 06 70 47 58 92 -- FAX (+39) 06 7000 406

World Council of the Marianist Family
Consejo Mundial de la Familia Marianista