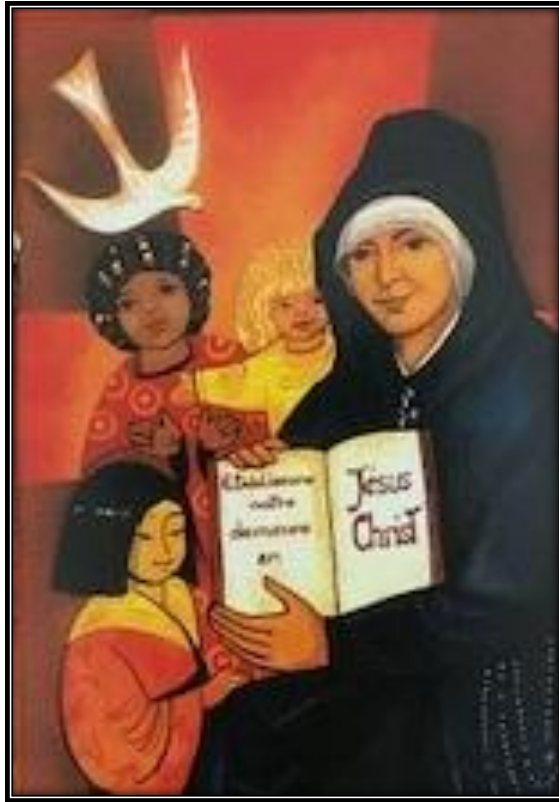


SAINT MARIE RIVIER NOVENA
JANUARY 26-FEBRUARY 3RD, 2023



TO ENCOUNTER A SAINT

**Let us become what we are ...
saints, apostles, true disciples
of Jesus Christ.**

AN OPEN GOSPEL

Written For the 225^e anniversary of the founding
Of the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary
In homage of Marie Rivier

It's like a fire burning within me...
I yearn so much that it would spread!
May I depend upon you
To bear it, together with you...
To the poorest of his friends...
Who have never known him,
Revealing to them, by our life,
That, for God, they are His preference.

**How I would like to be
An open Gospel
Where people recognize
Between the lines of my life...
Jesus-Christ!**

Our prayer, like salt, seasons all our works
To God's taste, heaven's taste!
And here we are, salt of the earth!
A total gift, never recovered,
To remain in His Presence!
Let us meditate, like Mary, In the Word and in silence...
May steadfast and inventiveness
Be the zeal where we find the audacity
To proclaim the love of Christ
Where evil is so tenacious...
From our heart, may we let burst
The living water that is His source
And flows in us, without ever running dry
Or slowing down its course!

**Words and music: Robert Lebel
Pontbriand Editions 2021**

Ardent Love of Jesus Christ

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Hymn: “An Open Gospel” or your choice

+ In the Name of the Father, ...

Word of God: Romans 8: 35-39

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Commentary: Saint Marie Rivier

Always stay close to Christ Jesus. Empty yourself of self and fill yourself with Christ Jesus who is your all. Live Christ Jesus. When will Christ Jesus begin to live in you a life that is holy and perfect? When will we be able to boast with St. Paul by saying, “It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.” Our vocation is Jesus Christ.

Rosary: At least one decade.

Daily Intentions:

For all the Sisters, the Associates and families of the Presentation of Mary. For peace in the world and our lives. Other intentions ...

To Ponder:

In what ways and how often are you aware of the presence of God in your daily life?

Let Us Pray.

God our Father, you fashioned in Saint Marie Rivier a heart impassioned for your glory and for the salvation of the world. We bless you.

Place in us her ardent love for Jesus Christ, her faith in the power of prayer, her apostolic boldness, her compassion for all suffering.

Grant us, through her intercession the grace that we ask of you Amen.

+ In the Name of the Father, ...

Devotion to Mary

Friday, January 27, 2023

Hymn: “An Open Gospel” or your choice

+ In the Name of the Father ...

Word of God: Luke 1: 46-56

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my Spirit rejoices in God my Savior for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed, for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm, he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts, he has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree. He has helped his servant Israel in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity forever.

Commentary: Saint Marie Rivier, Spiritual Writings

School yourselves in every virtue and strive to acquire that spirit of recollection, of silence, and of prayer that so characterized Mary and that made her unique among all other servants of God. Watch over your heart and keep it as resiliently pure as God demands. Fashion yourselves in accordance with Mary’s interior and exterior life; become her true replicas and her worthy Daughters.

Rosary: At least one decade.

Daily Intentions:

For all the sisters, the Associates and Families of the Presentation of Mary. For peace in our word and in our lives. Other intentions...

To Ponder:

How does our devotion to Mary draw us closer to Jesus?

Let Us Pray.

God our Father, you fashioned in Saint Marie Rivier a heart impassioned for your glory and for the salvation of the world. We bless you. Place in us her ardent love for Jesus Christ, her faith in the power of prayer, her apostolic boldness, her compassion for all suffering. Grant us, through her intercession the grace that we ask of you Amen.

* In the name of the Father ...



Faith in the Power of Prayer

Saturday, January 28, 2023

Hymn: “An Open Gospel” or your choice

+ In the Name of the Father, ...

Word of God: Philippians 4: 5-7

Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Commentary: Saint Marie Rivier, “The Fire of Her Witness”

Yes, my children, let us seek everything in prayer, and God’s graces will pour down upon us in abundance. Let us continually ask God for our needs by means of prayer, and our prayers will be granted. Oh, how prayer is efficacious! How purifying it is! It obtains everything from heaven. God cannot resist prayer; he gives us his word on this. And after that assurance, would we not all be daughters of prayer. Prayer is the key to Paradise; yes, that is the key to Heaven.

Rosary: At least one decade.

Daily Intentions:

For all the Sisters, the Associates and Families of the Presentation of Mary. For peace in our world and in our lives. Other intentions...

To Ponder:

How has the ‘power of prayer’ impacted your life?

Let Us Pray:

God our Father, you fashioned in Saint Marie Rivier a heart impassioned for your glory and for the salvation of the world. We bless you. Place in us her ardent love for Jesus Christ, her faith in the power of prayer, her apostolic boldness, her compassion for all suffering. Grant us, through her intercession the grace that we ask of you Amen.

+ In the Name of the Father, ...



Compassion for the Poor

Sunday, January 29, 2023

Hymn: 'An Open Gospel' or your choice

+ In the Name of the Father, ...

Word of God: Matthew 11: 2-6

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me."

Commentary: Saint Marie Rivier "The Fire of Her Witness"

During the famine of 1811-12 the Bursar writes, "The house can no longer survive without a miracle from Providence. Mother Rivier responds, "I advise you to take care of the poor. I beg you not to neglect them." The Mother of the poor wanted God to be honoured and served first amongst themselves. When she was told "We don't have a penny left. Mother Rivier would reply, "Well, that's a good reason to welcome one more orphan." Such is the logic of love that made her write to the Sisters, "It is this work of mercy that sustains our house and draws down graces upon us."

Rosary: At least one decade.

Daily Intentions:

For all the Sisters, the Associates and Families of the Presentation of Mary. For peace in our world and in our lives. Other intentions...

To Ponder: In our world today, the poor, the homeless, and the refugees are seen by some as a blight on our landscape to be ignored and removed from our neighbourhoods. There is a need for a real change of heart so we can make a difference in the lives of the marginalized who are also children of God. What would Mother Rivier expect us to do given this situation?

Let Us Pray.

God our Father, you fashioned in Saint Marie Rivier a heart impassioned for your glory and for the salvation of the world. We bless you.

Place in us her ardent love for Jesus Christ, her faith in the power of prayer, her apostolic boldness, her compassion for all suffering.

Grant us, through her intercession the grace that we ask of you

Amen.

+ In the Name of the Father, ...

Trust in Divine Providence

Monday, January 30, 2023

Hymn: “An Open Gospel” or your choice.

+ In the Name of the Father, ...

Word of God: Matthew 6: 25-27, 32-34

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, they neither sow or reap or gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Commentary: Saint Marie Rivier, “The Fire of Her Witness”

During renovations at Bourg, the Sisters ran out of money. Sister Regis told Mother Rivier of the problem and was instructed by Mother to pray. Sister wanted to obey but was still worried. She wrote again to Mother Rivier who responds, “Daughter of little faith ... continue to pray and be trustful.” Sister Regis, despite her good will was deeply worried as she thought to herself, “What are we going to do?” suddenly a traveller appeared, he said to her, “I can see that there are repairs going on here; you must need a lot of money to pay for them.” “Oh yes, Monsieur,” she replied. “Well, here is a little offering that will be helpful to you.” When Sister Regis opened the bag, she felt a little faint, for it contained exactly the 2000 Francs she needed. As for the unknown stranger, his departure remained very mysterious.

Rosary: At least one decade

Daily Intentions:

For all the Sisters, the Associates and Families of the Presentation of Mary. For peace in our world and in our lives. Other intentions...

To Ponder:

How much faith in Divine Providence do we have to solve the difficulties we encounter in our life?

Let Us Pray.

God our Father, you fashioned in Saint Marie Rivier a heart impassioned for your glory and for the salvation of the world. We bless you.

Place in us her ardent love for Jesus Christ, her faith in the power of prayer, her apostolic boldness, her compassion for all suffering. Grant us, through her intercession the grace that we ask of you Amen.

+In the Name of the Father, ...

Spirit of Adventure

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Hymn: “An Open Gospel” or your choice

+ In the Name of the Father, ...

Word of God: Luke 10: 1-3

After this the Lord appointed 72 others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

Commentary: Saint Marie Rivier, “Bringing the Fire ...”

Would that I had a thousand bodies to be able to go to work all over the world to make Jesus Christ known! Marie Rivier prophesied that one day her Daughters would cross the seas. Indeed they did, and they continue their missionary work in over 19 countries today.

Rosary: At least one decade.

Daily Intentions:

For all the Sisters, the Associates and Families of the Presentation of Mary. For peace in the world and in our lives. Other intentions

To Ponder:

When have you been challenged to go beyond your comfort zone to bring the love of Jesus Christ to others?

Let Us Pray.

God our Father, you fashioned in Saint Marie Rivier a heart impassioned for your glory and for the salvation of the world. We bless you. Place in us her ardent love for Jesus Christ, her faith in the power of prayer, her apostolic boldness, her compassion for all suffering. Grant us, through her intercession the grace that we ask of you Amen.

* In the name of the Father ...

Joy in Life

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Hymn: “An Open Gospel” or your choice

+ In the Name of the Father, ...

Word of God: Ecclesiastes 3: 12-15

I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live: moreover, it is God’s gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this so that all should stand in awe before him.

Commentary: Disciples of Saint Marie Rivier

“Let us come together,” was spoken by Marie Rivier as she formed her community in a spirit of love, faith and shared work. This woman of faith and prayer loved to be with her Daughters and they welcomed her whenever she visited her many houses. It was often said that there will be singing and laughter tonight for Marie Rivier is in the house. The community thrived on shared faith, sense of purpose and prayer all of which arose from their love of Jesus Christ.

Rosary: At least one decade.

Daily Intentions:

For all the Sisters, the Associates and Families of the Presentation of Mary. For peace in our world and in our lives. Other intentions...

To Ponder:

What is your source of joy when you gather with Family, Friends and Colleagues?

Let Us Pray.

God our Father, you fashioned in Saint Marie Rivier a heart impassioned for your glory and for the salvation of the world. We bless you.

Place in us her ardent love for Jesus Christ, her faith in the power of prayer, her apostolic boldness, her compassion for all suffering.

Grant us, through her intercession the grace that we ask of you

Amen.

* In the name of the Father ...

Courage to Face the Unknown

Thursday, February 2, 2023

Hymn: “An Open Gospel” or your choice

+ In the Name of the Father ...

Word of God: 1Corinthians 16: 13-14

Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.

Commentary: Salt and Light Media

During a time of anti-religious sentiment and persecution, including the expulsion of religious congregations from the country, Marie became a rock in the midst of the storm, leading secret prayer services when there was no priest to say Mass and continuing to catechize the local community. It is a great testament to the courage and faith of this woman that she would found a new religious order in such an unwelcoming time and place. And a testament, too, to the strength of her witness of faith that so many women followed her.

Rosary: At least one Decade.

Daily Intentions:

For all the Sisters, the Associates and Families of the Presentation of Mary. For peace in our world and our lives. Other intentions...

To Ponder:

Recall times in your life when your courage and faith were tested. How did you respond?

Let Us Pray.

God our Father, you fashioned in Saint Marie Rivier a heart impassioned for your glory and for the salvation of the world. We bless you.

Place in us her ardent love for Jesus Christ, her faith in the power of prayer, her apostolic boldness, her compassion for all suffering.

Grant us, through her intercession the grace that we ask of you Amen.

+ In the Name of the Father, ...

Apostolic Zeal

Friday, February 3, 2023

Hymn: An Open Gospel or your choice

+ In the name of the Father, ...

Word of God: 1Corinthians 16: 13-15

Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.

Commentary: Pope Frances' Homily

Saint Paul was the focus, and in particular his talent 'at being a nuisance', at unsettling people who had grown too comfortable in their faith, and imbuing within them that apostolic zeal that is necessary for the Church to move forward. Pope Frances said that apostolic zeal implies an element of madness, but of spiritual madness, of healthy madness'. Proclaiming Christ has its consequences which can often result in persecution. Nonetheless, stated the Pope, we must not be 'backseat Christians' cozy in our comfort zones.

Rosary: at least one decade

Daily Intentions:

For all the Sisters, the Associates and families of the Presentation of Mary. For peace in the world and in our lives.

To Ponder:

Am I ready to move out of my 'comfort zone', to embrace 'spiritual madness' so as to proclaim Jesus Christ and move the Church forward?

Let Us Pray:

God our Father, you fashioned in Saint Marie Rivier a heart impassioned for your glory and for the salvation of the world. We bless you.

Place in us her ardent love for Jesus Christ, her faith in the power of prayer, her apostolic boldness, her compassion for all suffering. Grant us, through her intercession the grace that we ask of you Amen.

+In the Name of the Father...

HAPPY RIVIER DAY

