



ALL FOR GOD ALL THROUGH HOLY LOVE!

***The hour is coming, and is now here,
when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit
and truth: for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.***

Jn 4: 23

Dear Sisters and all the Spiritual Family of Saint Marie Rivier,

Pope Francis has announced a Jubilee Year: ***Pilgrims of Hope***. He opened the Holy Door on **Christmas Eve, December 24th**. This Jubilee 2025 is an opportunity to live **a time of grace and mercy**, to walk together with confidence.

During this time of grace and hope, we walk as Church, with all the People of God, with all our spiritual Family. In this way, the novena in preparation for the Feast of our Holy Foundress, Marie River, on February 3rd, invites us to look at and walk with **Saint Marie Rivier, Woman of Prayer and Prophet of Hope**.

Together, during these days, we will walk with her in the light of hope as we explore its different aspects. *Hope gives an interior orientation and a purpose to our lives, it is the virtue that describes the heart in which the Holy Spirit dwells, hope walks with all those who seek her with faith and love.*

"The heart indicates man's interiority, but also his capacity for reflection: it's the seat of memory, the center of choices and projects. In his open side, Jesus shows us and tells us: "I take your life to heart". And he also says: "Do this in memory of me: take care of others. With your heart. That is, have the same feelings as I do, make the same decisions as I do", know how to be humble and pure of heart. (Pope Francis, Audience June 26, 2019)

We love all that Marie Rivier so passionately loved: Jesus Christ, his Mother, the Church, the Eucharist, the Cross, the Beatitudes, the poor, the children and youth D3b.

I offered to endure all this for the preservation of this Institute, if his greater glory were to be found there. And I am ever more firm in these dispositions, and it seems to me that I would make the sacrifice of never seeing God, if I could work through all of eternity for the salvation of souls (Rey-Mermet, p. 97).

May Christ, our Hope, be our only reason for living.



In communion with my Councillors, I wish you a fervent novena and a wonderful feast of Saint Marie Rivier.

S. Maria dos Anjos Alves, p.m.

Sister Maria dos Anjos Alves, p.m.
Superior General

January 26, 2025

Saint Marie Rivier, Woman moved by the Holy Spirit.



We do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit. Rm 8: 26-27

I desire the Holy Spirit for you and for all your companions, for the spouses of Jesus Christ must be filled with him, be guided in all things by this divine Spirit. (Marie Rivier: In the Fire of her Tenderness).

Hymn

Psalm 113, 1 - 8

2nd psalm and canticle taken from the Office of the day

Word of God: Galatians 5: 16, 22-25

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

Reflection

The Holy Spirit is the Gift that comes into the human heart *at*

the same time as prayer. In prayer, he manifests himself first and foremost as the Gift that "comes to the rescue of our weakness". This is the admirable thought developed by Saint Paul in the *Letter to the Romans*, when he writes: "We do not know what to ask in order to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with inexpressible groanings". So not only does the Holy Spirit lead us to pray, but he guides us "from within" in prayer, compensating for our inadequacy, remedying our inability to pray; he is present in our prayer and gives it a divine dimension. *"He who searches the heart knows what the Spirit desires,* and that his intercession for the saints corresponds to God's views". Prayer, thanks to the Holy Spirit, becomes the ever more mature expression of the new man who, through it, participates in the divine life (John Paul II Encyclical DOMINUM ET VIVIFICANTEM N°65).

Without this Spirit, we are like a ship without a rudder, like an army without a leader, like a soldier without weapons: we cannot overcome the enemies of our soul, nor fight them effectively. We can never experience victory if we don't have the Holy Spirit with us. Become generous, do not fight the operations of the Holy Spirit, but call upon him frequently to direct you in all things (Marie Rivier, Letter 796).

We need to let the Spirit open up the springs of living water that flow superabundantly from Christ. The call to rediscover one's own roots and choices in spirituality opens paths to the future. This interior newness will enable consecrated persons to start afresh from Christ and be witnesses to his love (Starting Afresh from Christ n°20).

The Spirit gives us intimacy with God, the inner strength to move forward. But at the same time, it is a centrifugal force, that is, it pushes outwards. The one who leads us towards the center is the same one who sends us towards the peripheries, towards every human periphery; the one who reveals God to us pushes us towards our brothers and sisters (Pope Francis).

The Holy Spirit gives us a taste for the things of God, puts tenderness and compassion for others in our hearts, and makes us capable of astonishing achievements in accepting our limits and those of others. He puts us at each other's service, with enthusiasm and spontaneity. (MJT, Return to the Heart, Vol 1, p. 437)

As long as I live, I'll never stop asking our Lord to fill you with his divine Spirit, so that he himself may be your strength and light in order to lead you on his path to a joy-filled eternity. (Marie Rivier)

How much good you would do if you behaved in everything according to the Spirit of Jesus Christ" (Marie Rivier, Spirit and Virtues).

The Holy Spirit creates communion and guides the mission of every religious community, just as he anointed the Church in the Upper Room to send her out to evangelize the world. The Spirit guided the life of Marie Rivier in her project of foundation.

Is it the Spirit of Jesus who is animating and directing me right now?

Do I beg the Holy Spirit to bring new life to our Congregation and to keep alive the ardent and pure zeal of our origins?

Canticle: Mary's prayer teaches us that all holiness is the holiness that the Spirit accomplishes in us. C78

Intercessions

Holy Spirit, we don't know what your face is like, we don't recognize it, but we do know that you are strength, that you are light, that you are able to move us forward and teach us to pray. Come Holy Spirit!

Lord Jesus Christ, you filled Saint Marie Rivier with many gifts. Through her intercession, open our hearts to the Spirit who prays unceasingly within us and makes us cry out to you Abba Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, you gave us Saint Marie Rivier, a woman moved by the Holy Spirit. Through her intercession, may the Spirit make us overflow with Hope for the poor, those who are rejected and for all those in need.

Our Father

Prayer:

God our Father, we thank you for Saint Marie Rivier. Help us to know Jesus Christ in the Gospel, to live Jesus Christ in his mysteries, to reveal and teach Jesus Christ by our whole life. Grant us, through her intercession, to be docile to the calls of your Holy Spirit and to the grace of spiritual rebirth in order to serve the little ones and the poor of this world, as we did in the beginning of our Congregation. Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen!

January 27, 2025

Saint Marie Rivier, Woman in love with Jesus Christ



Jesus Christ is at the heart of Marie Rivier's life as he is at the center of God's plan for us. C1

To make Jesus Christ the center of our life, to put on Christ, to attune our will constantly to the Father's love and to remain attentive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, we need definite and sometimes prolonged periods of

prayer. C53

Hymn

Psalm 119 v 1 - 8

2nd psalm and canticle taken from the Office of the day

Word of God: Jn 15: 1-5

Reflection:

My Daughter, continue to study and copy Jesus Christ in all your conduct; engrave deeply in your heart all his maxims, may he be your light, your strength and your all, so that you can say with Saint Paul: it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me (Marie Rivier).

Ah, my dear daughters, what a renewal would take place in the whole body if we were to study this great book which has made all the saints... I feel so strongly the need to form ourselves in Jesus Christ, and to practice his virtues all our lives, that from now on I only want to speak to you about him... study Jesus Christ, love Jesus Christ, imitate Jesus Christ, make him known

and loved everywhere (Spiritual Writings, p. 9).

Ah, I implore you, my dear daughters, hold fast to Jesus Christ, never separate yourselves from him; never lose sight of him; may you always be found clothed in his virtues. Then you won't have to fear that the enemies of your salvation will approach you and do you the slightest harm. As long as you are with Jesus Christ, you will be safe and invincible. (Spiritual Writings p.20)

To follow Jesus Christ and to act according to his spirit was the rule of life that fashioned the heart and inspired the activity and teaching of our Foundress. C2

Not only does Jesus want us to pray as He prays, but He assures us that, even if our attempts at prayer are completely vain and ineffective, we can always count on His prayer. Jesus is the door that opens us to dialogue with God (Pope Francis, General Audience, June 2, 2021).

What a grace it is when a Christian truly becomes a "Christophore", that is, a bearer of Christ in the world (Pope Francis).

Saint Marie Rivier was a woman with a passionate love for Christ.

As I look at my relationship with Christ, can I say that my love for Him has grown?

What place does He have in my life? Does my life bear witness to Him?

Canticle: Mary cooperates with Christ and the Church in educating us spiritually. C77

Intercessions

It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me... God our Father, you made Saint Marie Rivier a woman with a passionate love for Christ. Through her intercession, may our lives bear witness to his love.

Learn Jesus well. Desire only Jesus Christ... God our Father, you made Saint Marie Rivier a woman with a passionate love for Christ. Through her intercession, strengthen in us our desire to know him better, to love him and to make him known.

Imitate Jesus Christ and act only according to his spirit... God our Father, you made Saint Marie Rivier a woman with a passionate love for Christ. Through her intercession, grant us the grace to work for your glory and the salvation of the world.

Our Father

Prayer:

God our Father, we thank you for Saint Marie Rivier. Help us to know Jesus Christ in the Gospel, to live Jesus Christ in his mysteries, to reveal and teach Jesus Christ by our whole life. Through her intercession, grant us the grace to be an open Gospel where everyone can read Jesus Christ. He who reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

January 28, 2025

Saint Marie Rivier, Woman of contemplation and adoration



He who worships God with joy will be well received, and his prayer will rise to the heavens. (Sirach 35: 16)

The interior life is nothing other than worship in Spirit and in Truth, than the life of faith lived by the just (VJC, p.299).

Jesus Christ, perfect worshiper of the Father, gathers us with him and in him, to establish in faith a community of adoration, C5

Hymn

Psalm 63

2nd psalm and canticle taken from the Office of the day

Word of God: Jn 4: 23-24

The hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

Reflection

Worshipping God in truth means worshipping Him on the basis of what is revealed in God's Word. Worshipping Him in Spirit means worshipping Him sincerely in the power of the Holy Spirit, from the depths of your being, placing Him above all else. When you worship in the Spirit, you allow the Holy Spirit to direct your worship.

To live in this habitual state of adoration and offering is to live our apostolic spirituality to the full. The more our gaze is honed by contemplation of Jesus in the Eucharist, the more the inclination of our heart will be to the Father's will, and the easier it will become for us to decipher the Spirit's invitations in the signs of the times (Mother Angèle Dion, Feast of the Offering: A Call to Holiness).

Happy is he who worships the Lord! Sirach describes this happiness. He who worships the Lord no longer looks to false gods, for he has found a powerful protector, a solid support, a shelter against the heat, a shelter in the noontday heat, a guard against blows, a support against falls. He will fear nothing, for God himself is his future. He who worships the Lord will not tremble. He has found high ground for his soul, light for his eyes, health for his body. He drinks from the fountain of life, and God's blessings are upon him (MJT, Vol1, p. 358).

Don't be afraid to frequently remind your sisters that a time of true adoration is more valuable than the most intense activity, even apostolic. Yes, it's part of your vocation to challenge a society that relies solely on apparent efficiency. Your communities must be par excellence centers of prayer, of solitude in God, of loving communion with Jesus Christ (MJT, Vol 1, p.382).

Ah, how I wish I had a full house of adorers right now! It seems to me that they would draw down upon us all the blessings of heaven... I hope, that by this means, the whole Congregation would prosper and that we will succeed in doing all the good possible wherever we go. (Marie Rivier)

In her letter, Marie Rivier invited her daughters to adoration, to ask for God's blessings, for the conversion of all people, and to thank God for all the graces he pours out on her teachings.

Is this devotion still close to my heart?

What role does adoration play in my life?

In response to Mother Marie Rivier's invitation, let us take some time for adoration during this day.

Canticle: We need to repeat the name of Mary frequently in order to become prayer, to be, in a permanent way, the worshipers in spirit and in truth that the Father seeks. C79

Intercessions

To adore is to become aware of this Presence and to marvel at it. God our Father, you have made of Saint Marie Rivier a sacrament of your Presence. Through her intercession, teach us to cultivate a sense of wonder at God's blessings.

To adore is to thank God for his immense gift and his infinite humility. God our Father, you have made of Saint Marie Rivier a sacrament of your Presence. Through her intercession, give us the grace to proclaim your greatness and witness to your marvels by our lives.

To adore is to recognize myself as small before Him. God our Father, you made of Saint Marie Rivier a sacrament of your presence. Through her intercession, teach us to be, like her, women of contemplation in action.

Our Father

Prayer: God our Father, we thank you for Saint Marie Rivier.

Help us to know Jesus Christ in the Gospel, to live Jesus Christ in his mysteries, to reveal and teach Jesus Christ by our whole life. Through her intercession, grant us the grace to be sacraments of your Presence and of your gratuitous love. He who reigns for ever and ever. Amen

January 29, 2025

Saint Marie Rivier, Woman filled with trust in God.



We were nothing, we had nothing, we could do nothing. And after that, do you doubt that it wasn't God who brought things to where you see them today, who founded, increased and consolidated this community? (Marie Rivier)

As for me, I have never relied on anything but prayer. I have never believed I could succeed in anything without it, but as soon as I've prayed and had others pray, I am at peace and in confidence, supported by the word of Jesus Christ (Marie Rivier).

Hymn

Psalm 121

2nd psalm and canticle taken from the Office of the day

Word of God: Mark 4: 35-40

Reflection

Like the disciples in Mark's Gospel, let us take Jesus into the little boat of our lives. To take Christ is to keep faith in the One who can do all things. His strength will enable us to face every storm, fight every ill wind and, with Him, reach the other shore: "Trust in God is the key to success in life, for He never, ever disappoints". Let us in turn make an act of faith in God by

accepting that we won't understand everything right away. Let's put our trust in the One to whom "even the wind and the sea obey". (Pope Francis)

God is right there, where we are, in the boat that's tossed about like a walnut shell on the ocean, and in the tumult of a world that refers to values other than those of the Gospel. He asks that we, at least us, believe in him, that we trust him against winds and storms, that, in the solitude in which he temporarily leaves us, we do not abandon him to follow illusions and let ourselves be carried away by the false securities of this world (MJT, Vol 1, p.355).

My poverty, my misery and my weakness are the reason why I acted with complete confidence in her more than paternal goodness, without worrying about what I might lack. Yes," she would say, "everything comes from God and the Blessed Virgin. Do you want proof? This work began in a time of persecution, in days when hardly anyone dared declare themselves Christian. It is through the hands of this good Mother that all graces and help have come to us. We have never ceased to feel the effects of her protection, and the more I advance in the carrying out of the great work that God has entrusted to me, the more I feel the need for her help. (Marie Rivier)

Have great confidence, don't let yourself be defeated; confidence and faith obtain everything, and it is when all seems lost that we should hope the most. Daughter of little faith, abandon yourself to God and expect everything from him. As long as you observe the Rule, and as long as humility and charity reign among you, I have no fear and all will be well, the Holy Virgin with protect you. (Letter, Bourg, December 24, 1822)

Saint Marie Rivier never relied on human means for any of her undertakings, but solely on prayer, which is the great secret for allowing Providence to be favorable to us.

And you, do you believe that nothing is impossible for God? If so, pray with Mother Rivier and Our Lady that the Lord will continue to send many holy vocations to our Congregation. Let us also pray with her that we may dare to go, with the Lord, to other shores and bring the Good News to places where it is not yet known.

Canticle: Mary teaches us that the highest form of prayer consists in doing all that her Son tells us. C78

Intercessions:

Trust in God is the key to success in life, for He never disappoints. Lord, you made Saint Marie Rivier a woman of faith and trust. Through her intercession, help us to dwell in you and open up new pathways for the future.

Trust is believing that God will do what he has said, and believing it so deeply that we are ready to act accordingly. Lord, you made Saint Marie Rivier a woman of faith and trust. Through her intercession, free us from the fear that paralyzes us, and lead us to the other shore for a profound discovery of your identity.

Trust in God overcomes obstacles. Lord, you made Saint Marie Rivier a woman of faith and trust. Through her intercession, grant us courage and perseverance in all things.

Our Father

Prayer:

God our Father, we thank you for Saint Marie Rivier. Help us to know Jesus Christ in the Gospel, to live Jesus Christ in his mysteries, to reveal and teach Jesus Christ by our whole life. Through her intercession, help us to grow in Jesus Christ, your Son, and teach us to abandon ourselves to your Holy Will.

January 30, 2025

Saint Marie Rivier, Woman of hope.



Those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. (Is 40: 31)

God gave me the greatest faith and the firmest hope from my earliest childhood. (Marie Rivier)

It is today," she would say, "that the Blessed Virgin will heal me! I'll come back alone. I won't need anyone (Mourret p.10).

Hymn

Psalm 42, 1-5

2nd psalm and canticle taken from the Office of the day

Word of God: Jeremiah 19 : 11-13

It was at the foot of the Pietà, in those interminable discussions with the Mother of Sorrows, that the child learned all alone, without any human help, what it is to believe and hope. This woman in pain, holding her dead son in her lap, was the image of total hope. For four years, every day, the child insisted on being carried to the feet of the statue, where she was left for an indefinite amount of time. Never weary, never disconcerted, she repeated every morning with the same impetus, the same invincible confidence: "Today is the day the Blessed Virgin will heal me" (MJT, Vol 1, p. 332).

If I had had money to do my works," she said, "I would never

have been able to do them, nor would I have dared to undertake them, but as I had nothing, I always hoped that the good Lord would do everything, and that He would know how to provide everything necessary for the accomplishment of His designs" (Spirit and Virtues, p.9).

It was because of this trust in God that I dared to undertake the work entrusted to me by Divine Providence, well aware of my incapacity and my misery in every respect, but expecting everything from God and the protection of the Blessed Virgin, whom we have always invoked with the most tender and firm confidence. (Marie Rivier, Spirit and Virtues, p. 13)

Overflowing with hope means never becoming discouraged; it means hoping "against all hope," that is, hoping even when all human reason to hope fails, as was the case with Abraham when God asked him to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, and as was even more the case with the Virgin Mary under the Cross of Jesus and Marie Rivier before the Pieta (Mother Jean Théophane).

Hope alone will give us the dynamism we need to bring about these profound transformations; it alone can draw us out of ourselves, unburden us, empty our earthly hopes of their heaviness, teach us to overcome them, give us the impetus we need to move forward, where Life is, for life is always forward (MJT, Vol 1, p. 31).

So let us stand up and set out as Pilgrims of Hope, for, as Mary did with Saint Elizabeth, we too can bring glad tidings of joy, engender new life and be artisans of fraternity and peace. (Pope Francis)

Pope Francis invites us to be signs of Hope for our world.

How can we be signs of Hope in a world filled with deep despair?

Like Marie Rivier, are we ready to be Prophets of Hope?

Canticle: We look to the humble Virgin Mary as we journey in hope. C48

Intercessions:

Hope gives inner direction and purpose to the lives of believers. Lord, you made Saint Marie Rivier a woman of Hope. Through her intercession, grant us the grace to be credible witnesses and artisans of peace.

Hope is the virtue of a young heart. Lord, you made Saint Marie Rivier a woman of Hope. Through her intercession, grant us the grace never to tire of waiting and hoping.

Hope fills the lives of all those who ardently seek it. Lord, you made Saint Marie Rivier a woman of Hope. Through her intercession, grant us the grace to be bearers of Hope for young people, migrants, the sick and all vulnerable people.

Our Father

Prayer

God our Father, we thank you for Saint Marie Rivier. Help us to know Jesus Christ in the Gospel, to live Jesus Christ in his mysteries, to reveal and teach Jesus Christ by our whole life. Grant us, through her intercession, the grace to face the future, which can sometimes seem so bleak. Make of us sowers of hope and weavers relationships.

January 31, 2025

**Saint Marie Rivier,
Woman whose heart is ablaze with Holy Love.**



Be imitators of God and live in love, following the example of Christ ... (Eph 5: 1-2)

In Jesus Christ we have known the love of God and we have believed in it. Charity impels us to reveal to those who question us the reason for the hope which dwells within us. C100

The heart of Jesus is a heart of love, a heart of fire, a furnace of charity for all... (Marie Rivier)

Hymn

Psalm 84

2nd psalm and canticle taken from the Office of the day

Word of God: Eph 3 : 14-19

Reflection

You are called to a vocation of zeal, and it is in the heart of Jesus that you must seek it. This zeal must have all the qualities that make it pleasing to God and useful to our neighbor. It must have the same beginning, the same end, the same scope as the heart of Jesus, and be in every way like his (Marie Rivier, Spiritual Writings, p 31).

If we have the joy of making a home for ourselves in this divine heart, my dear daughters, we will soon be ablaze with his love... God is charity, there is nothing in him that is not love. We must therefore, to correspond to his love, desire to love God with all

that we are; that is to say, that all our powers be applied to his love; that all our actions be animated by his love; that all our thoughts be purified by his love; that all our passions be regulated by his love. (Spiritual Writings, p 30)

The Heart of Jesus is a heart of love, a heart of fire, a furnace of charity for all. Throw yourself confidently in the loving Heart of Jesus, and you'll find there all the abundant help we need every day. Do you want to have the courage and strength to overcome your repugnance, to triumph over your enemies, to practice solid virtue? Immerse yourself in the blood that flows from this blessed wound and everything will seem light and easy. Are you assailed by furious temptations? Take refuge in this shelter, where you'll be safe and the demons will flee from you. Go to him boldly, following the example of the saints, and try to follow the marvellous discoveries that love has suggested to them to honour him. (Marie Rivier, Spiritual Writings, p 29)

The heart indicates a person's interiority, but also his/her capacity for reflection: it is the seat of memory, the center of choices and projects. In his open side, Jesus shows us and tells us: "You interest me", "I take your life to heart". But he also says: "Do this in memory of me: take care of others. With your heart. That is, have the same feelings as I do, make the same decisions as I do", know how to be humble and pure of heart. (Pope Francis Audience, June 26, 2019)

It is from the heart of Jesus that we receive the hope that the evil we see and experience does not have the last word, but is truly overcome by the light, by the fire that comes from the heart of Jesus

Saint Marie Rivier tells us that this love, which urges us forward, finds its source in the heart of Jesus.

How do I live this love in my everyday life?

Am I always moved by this love to bring hope to the people I come into contact with?

Canticle: The Virgin Mary teaches us that the greatest apostolic fruitfulness comes from the greatest love. C113

Intercessions

If we were to study the Heart of Jesus, we would draw from it everything we could wish for, since it is the source of all good. Lord, you made Saint Marie Rivier a woman ablaze with Holy Love. At her prayer, give us a more confident and audacious faith in the all-powerful love of the Heart of Jesus.

To be conformed to the Heart of Jesus, he must be the Master of your heart. Lord, you made Saint Marie Rivier a woman ablaze with Holy Love. At her prayer, free us from all that tends to take the place of Jesus in our hearts. Allow us to taste the happiness of belonging to him without reserve, to let him love and act in and through us.

"See what good you can do if you resemble our Lord." Lord, you made Saint Marie Rivier a woman ablaze with Holy Love. At her prayer, obtain for us inner healing, poverty of heart and perfect surrender to the love of the Heart of Jesus, so that he can give us a share in his passion for the Kingdom.

Our Father

Prayer:

God our Father, we give you thanks for Saint Marie Rivier. Help us to know Jesus Christ in the Gospel, to live Jesus Christ in his mysteries, to reveal and teach Jesus Christ by our whole life. Grant that we may draw from this divine source of love a superabundance of grace. Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

February 1, 2025

**Saint Marie Rivier,
Woman whose heart was humble and poor**



The foundation of our poverty is the poverty of Jesus Christ. As rich as he was, he made himself poor. His poverty is rooted in his love of the Father and his love of humanity. Poverty is the source of all goods and virtues. A person who is poor in spirit, truly detached from earthly goods, is always sincerely humble. (Pope Francis)

Your holiness and your happiness depend on your humility. God demands it of you: it is this virtue that will bring you to heaven and draw upon you the graces you need to get there; it will also obtain for you blessings on your apostolate. Courage and perseverance, your humility is the greatest consolation you can give me. (Marie Rivier)

Hymn

Psalm 77

2nd psalm and canticle taken from the Office of the day

Word of God: Mt 11: 25-30

Reflection

For Christ's disciples, poverty is above all a vocation to follow Jesus poor. It is a path he has walked and that we walk with him, a path that leads to the beatitude of the Kingdom of heaven. Poverty means a humble heart that knows how to accept its own condition as a limited and sinful creature, in order to overcome the temptation of omnipotence, which makes us believe that we are immortal (Pope Francis).

The act of hope consists fundamentally in the following attitude: I acknowledge myself to be small and poor before God, and I expect everything from him with full confidence. My poverty is then no longer a problem, but an opportunity.

Poverty places us in a situation where we need help. But we have to recognize our poverty and acknowledge that we need that help. In a way, humility is an additional step: not only do we recognize that we need help, but we also accept to let ourselves be helped. (Teaching of Our Lady of Ourscamp Abbey, February 2018)

Hope is that attitude of heart that makes us expect everything as a gift from God, in accepted spiritual poverty and trust. We must realize the close link that exists between poverty and hope. We can only truly "enter into hope", in the words of John Paul II, if we are poor of heart. As long as we have riches to cling to, human securities and supports in which we place our trust, we cannot truly practice hope, which consists in relying on God alone (Pope Francis).

My dear daughter, set your heart on humility, love of poverty and contempt for the world and its vanities. Ask Jesus for these virtues before the Crib; meditate on them at his feet; the deeper you sink into them, the happier you'll be, and the more your heart will rest in his. This must be the ambition of his spouses. This humility should be a powerful incentive to make us fulfill our duties to this good and loving Master who offers us signs of a love that has chosen us among so many others who would have served him better than we. (Marie Rivier Bourg-Saint-Andéol, January 7 1823)

Saint Marie Rivier was one of those poor and humble of heart who relied on God alone: today, she invites us to ask ourselves about the meaning and quality of our poverty. This poverty of heart can also be called humility, detachment from self and respect for others.

How does living these two virtues in our everyday lives help us to possess hope?

To bring this hope to our neighbors?

Canticle: The humble Virgin Mary is our model of availability and self-giving. We look to her as we journey in hope. C48

Intercessions

Entering into hope therefore implies accepting one's weakness and poverty. Lord Jesus, you made Saint Marie Rivier a woman with a poor and humble heart. At her prayer, rekindle this hope in us, so that we can respond to the needs of the poor and give them a reason to continue to hope in you.

Be humble in your heart and in all your ways. Lord Jesus, you made Saint Marie Rivier a woman with a poor and humble heart. At her prayer, instill in us the sentiments that bear witness to your presence and to your charity.

Poverty places us in a situation where we need help. Lord Jesus, you made Saint Marie Rivier a woman with a poor and humble heart. At her prayer, inspire us to always count on you. Unbind our hearts and free them to serve you and our neighbor.

Our Father

Prayer: God our Father, we thank you for Saint Marie Rivier. Help us to know Jesus Christ in the Gospel, to live Jesus Christ in his mysteries, to reveal and teach Jesus Christ by our whole life. Grant us the virtues of humility and poverty, so that we may draw strength from our weaknesses and joy from our detachment. Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

February 2, 2025

**Saint Marie Rivier,
Woman of compassion and gift of self**



In the spirit of humility and simplicity which marked our origins, we reach out preferably to the little and the poor, whom Christ loved above all. His compassion impels us to respond, whenever possible, to the needs of the destitute. C8

We must also be with the poor, this other face of Christ. From them, we learn generous sharing, simple joy, the meaning of Christian hope and the wisdom of the Beatitudes. D15

Hymn

Psalm 112

2nd psalm and canticle taken from the Office of the day

Word of God : Mt 15 : 30-36

Reflection

I offered to endure all this for the preservation of this Institute, if his greater glory were to be found there. And I am ever more firm in these dispositions, and it seems to me that I would make the sacrifice of never seeing God, if I could work all eternity for the salvation of souls (Rey-Mermet, p. 97).

It's hardly surprising, then, that Marie Rivier, now grown up, felt a sense of solidarity with her people, and took upon herself, as it were, along with Jesus, the sufferings of humanity. Suffering in her body and experiencing pain in her soul, she

forged ahead courageously, revealing only her joy of belonging to God. *I love my vocation like paradise!* Her contagious conviction drew many girls in her wake, eager like her to *save souls* by living the spirit she had bequeathed to them. (Mother Angèle Dion, Letter on Compassion)

Compassion makes you see realities as they are; compassion is like the "lens of the heart": it makes you understand their true dimensions. In the Gospels, Jesus is filled with compassion on numerous occasions, because compassion is also the language of God. It appears in the Bible before Jesus: God says to Moses "I have seen the sorrow of my people" (Exodus 3:7), and it is God's compassion that sends Moses to save his people. Our God is a God of compassion; it is, so to speak, his weakness, but also his strength. It is the best thing He gives us: it is compassion that drove Him to send His Son to us. It's his language" (Pope Francis).

Our contemporaries, saturated with fine words and empty promises, are more sensitive than ever to gestures and deeds. Gestures that speak to the heart! *A silent smile, an outstretched hand, a kiss for the beggar, the outcast or the dying are perhaps the most eloquent of prayers, the surest ambassadors of our faith in the world* (Prier, December 1997). Few words and a lot of tenderness, a gesture, a look: this is the recipe chosen by Mother Teresa, and so many others who are the Vincent de Pauls' and Marie Riviers' of today. (Mother Angèle Dion, Letter on Compassion)

Our small Congregation will always continue to grow in its works of charity; I do not wish it to continue if contempt or harshness towards the poor were to creep in... Assist them according to their need and your small possibility. Never lose sight of the fact that we have committed ourselves to this in our Statutes which state that "*any savings the Congregation may have are to be devoted to the relief of the poor*".

What a consolation for us, my dear daughters, to think that if

we practice poverty and are frugal, everything we have left from our savings goes to feed and clothe these poor children... this work is the joy of my heart; I hope it will be yours also. (Marie Rivier, Spirit and Virtues, p. 71)

In her circular on compassion, Mother Angèle tells us that compassion is a struggle for life which, by making us show solidarity with others, urges us on to be creative in finding ways to reduce the suffering around us.

Are we really committed to helping persons stand on their own two feet? Is our compassion inventive and active?

Saint Marie Rivier was attentive to the poor of her time. How do I look at all the suffering found in our world today?

Canticle: Mary offers us her motherly assistance to sustain our hope and her powerful mediation for the salvation of all her children on earth. C113

Intercessions

Our God is close, tender and compassionate. Lord Jesus, you made Saint Marie Rivier a woman of compassion and gift of self. At her prayer, may compassion awaken our hearts and make us all missionaries of hope.

Compassion means sharing other people's problems. Lord Jesus, you made Saint Marie Rivier a woman of compassion and gift of self. At her prayer, may we work for the well-being

of individuals and for a more active solidarity.

Compassion invites us to make a real commitment to more humane actions. Lord Jesus, you made Saint Marie Rivier a woman of compassion and gift of self. At her prayer, give us the courage to create environments or spaces where everyone feels supported and valued.

Our Father

Prayer

God our Father, we thank you for Saint Marie Rivier. Help us to know Jesus Christ in the Gospel, to live Jesus Christ in his mysteries, to reveal and to teach Jesus Christ by our whole life. Grant us the grace to be women of compassion and listening for the well-being of humanity. Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

February 3, 2025

Saint Marie Rivier, Woman of praise and gratitude



Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1Th 5: 16-18)

I bless and pray the Lord with all my heart to strengthen you in the sincere desire you all have to be His, without reserve. (Marie Rivier:

Her Heart and her Hand)

Office of Saint Marie Rivier

Word of God: Phil 4 :4-7

Reflection:

I bless the Lord Jesus for your good dispositions and ask him to strengthen you more and more in his holy love and the spirit of our state. Do not be attached to sentiment: as long as your will goes straight to God, rest easy. Abandon yourself unceasingly into the hands of such a good Father. If he gives you small consolations in his service, if he takes them away from you, adore his holy Will in everything (Marie Rivier).

The prayer of praise and thanksgiving is an expression of joy and gratitude to God for his countless gifts and blessings. In praise, we celebrate God's greatness, beauty and goodness, acknowledging his living, life-giving presence in our lives and in the world around us. In thanksgiving, we respond with gratitude to God's works, from the smallest to the greatest, knowing that every good we receive is a sign of his infinite goodness. This form of prayer helps us to cultivate an attitude of gratitude, capable of shaping our gaze and turning it towards our

brothers and sisters as a sign and witness of the charity with which God loves us. (Pope Francis)

To give thanks to God is to express our admiration for the marvels of God's generosity, but also for his greatness, his holiness, his tenderness for his creatures, his tireless mercy. Giving thanks to God is both a personal attitude and an act of adoration that glorifies God. It becomes a powerful expression of faith and adoration that brings us closer to our neighbor and to God, and strengthens our trust in Him and in the Virgin Mary (Marie Rivier).

Throughout her life, Saint Marie Rivier never stopped praising and blessing God for the benefits she received from Him through the intercession of the Virgin Mary. Today she invites us to sing our Magnificat, to thank God for his presence in our lives.

Do we know how to give thanks to God in all circumstances, as she did?

Each one of us is invited to do something to express our gratitude to God and the Virgin Mary.

Canticle: We are called to live this covenant of love that God's tenderness offers us from moment to moment in thanksgiving and the ever-renewed joy of Mary's Magnificat. C49

Intercessions:

To give thanks is to express the certainty that God loves us. God our Father, with Saint Marie Rivier we praise and bless you for the fidelity of your love and your presence in our lives and in the life of the Congregation since its origins.

At all times, give thanks. We praise and bless you, God our Father, for the charism given to Saint Marie Rivier, which helps us to be close to our neighbor and to the poor.

Gratitude makes us aware that everything comes from God. With Saint Marie Rivier, God our Father, we praise and bless you for the gift of community life, for vocations, for lay people, our Associates and collaborators who help us in our mission.

Our Father

Prayer:

God our Father, we thank you for Saint Marie Rivier. Help us to know Jesus Christ in the Gospel, to live Jesus Christ in his mysteries, to reveal and teach Jesus Christ by our whole life. Through her intercession, grant us the grace to be women of the Magnificat. Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.



*Let us always live in hope;
I always feel
more and more courageous
and desire to do good,
and I believe you also feel the same way.*

*I wish you
the greatest generosity
and all the love of Jesus Christ.*

Saint Marie Rivier