

**THIRD ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE CANONIZATION  
DE SAINT MARIE RIVIER**



*Let us remain in the Heart of Jesus, for  
He is our life. Let us keep Him in our  
hearts, for He is our glory.*

Marie Rivier

***ALL FOR GOD! ALL THROUGH HOLY LOVE!***

***Above all, keep watch over your heart,  
Since there are the wellsprings of life*** Prov 4:23

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

We are celebrating the Third Anniversary of the Canonization of St. Marie Rivier. An event that is always present, transcending space and time, like a river of living water flowing without interruption.

This Triduum plunges us into the heart of our spirituality: *into the Heart of Jesus, into the work of the heart* — a subject very dear to our Foundress — *into the union of hearts*. We are called to live, personally and in community, human and divine realities that come to us through the calls of the Holy Spirit and the signs of our times.

In his Encyclical Letter *Dilexit Nos* (no. 30), Pope Francis writes: " We need the help of God's love. Let us turn, then, to the heart of Christ, that core of his being, which is a blazing furnace of divine and human love and the most sublime fulfilment to which humanity can aspire. There, in that heart, we truly come at last to know ourselves and we learn how to love."

In communion with my Councillors, I wish you a fervent Triduum of preparation for this beautiful anniversary, together we are ***Pilgrims of Hope***.

*S. Maria dos Anjos Alves, p.m.*

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

**Day One : May 12, 2025**

## **The Sacred Heart of Jesus, Masterpiece of the Holy Spirit**

**Introduction:** The Masters of the École française emphasized the importance of devotion to the Heart of Jesus. On the cross, springs of living water flowed from the open side of Jesus, irrigating the whole of humanity. Marie Rivier speaks with the same passion. *The Heart of Jesus*, she says, *is his inner self : his feelings, his virtues, his love for his Father, his zeal... He is the fountain of living water.*



**Word of God:** God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. Romans 5:5

### **Silence**

#### **Commentaries:**

Through her contemplation of the Pietà, which portrays the dead Jesus resting in his mother's arms, Marie Rivier was drawn to the source of the Holy Spirit, which lies in the Heart of Jesus. It was there that she experienced all the tenderness, goodness, compassion and love he has for us. Here is what she tells us:

*The Heart of Jesus is the masterpiece of the Holy Spirit... It is here in this Heart that the Sanctifying Spirit gathers all the chosen : it is with this Heart that He loves them, governs them and leads them to the point of perfection and eternal happiness...*

(ES p. 44)

Moreover, the Lord desires to dwell in us and make His temple in our hearts.

*To be conformed to the Heart of Jesus, he must be the Master of your heart. How can you say to Our Lord, this is your place in my heart when he needs all of it? What do you want him to do with a part of your heart? Yes, he needs the whole of your heart.*

Marie River

In the same vein, Pope Francis mentions that the Heart of Jesus, thanks to the Holy Spirit, is also capable of unifying and harmonizing our personal history, which may seem hopelessly fragmented yet is the place where everything can make sense. It gives meaning to all our experiences, as the Gospel tells us in speaking of the Virgin Mary, who knew how to listen attentively, not only with her ears, but also with her heart. Indeed, she took time to reflect on past events, to immerse herself in them deeply, to ponder on them and to keep them precious, so that they would never be forgotten. Mary kept not only what she had seen, but also what she did not yet understand, but which was nonetheless there, pulsating, waiting to be put together in her heart. (He loved us, Encyclical Letter of Pope Francis, October 24, 2024, No 19)

Psalm 94 exhorts us to listen to the voice of the Lord and, thus, to let our hearts be infused with the knowledge of Jesus Christ, who enlightens, purifies, consecrates and revitalizes us. As a consequence, Marie Rivier addresses these words of wisdom to us:

*Consider the gentle and charitable way in which Jesus Christ acted among men.*

*Immerse yourself in the Sacred Heart of Jesus to discover his inclinations, his aspirations, his desires, the motives that drove him to act, the virtues that characterized him.*

*Let our hearts be continually occupied with the loving contemplation of Jesus Christ in his mysteries.*

<p><b>Reflection</b> : Do I take time to contemplate the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to enter within it? Do I conform myself to His Spirit, so as to think and act like Him?</p>
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## **Prayer**

God our Father, you are not indifferent to us, to what we are going through. You carry each one of us in your heart. You know us by name and care for us. Open our hearts so that they may be clothed in your mercy, and in your Son Jesus become servants to humankind.

Lord Jesus Christ, heal me of the hardness of my heart. Make my heart like Yours: strong and merciful, vigilant and generous, not turned in on itself or caught in the trap of the globalization of selfishness and indifference.

Amen

Pope Francis

**Day Two: May 13, 2025**

## **The work of the heart**

**Introduction:** The work of the heart is Marie Rivier's cherished theme. By being attentive to grace, with the help of the Holy Spirit, this work of vigilance is accomplished day by day. Contemplation of the Lord's virtues in the Gospel, of his Heart full of tenderness and compassion, purifies all the recesses of our heart, which is so often filled with lustful desires.



**Word of God:** "Come to me, all you who labor and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light. Matthew 11:28-30

### **Commentaries :**

Marie Rivier, in the midst of her ceaseless tasks, always kept the memory of God in mind. *She saw him in everything, and had created for herself a solitude in her heart where she knew how to find him, how to remain humble and small in his presence, how to question him and listen to him, how to offer him fervent prayers, sighs of love... and how to conform herself in everything to the spirit of Jesus Christ, to the dispositions of his Heart... this was what she called at times the work of the heart, and at other times the work of the inner self.* ( EV p. 38).

**Silence:** For Marie Rivier, silence is the keystone of our heart. It brings us face to face with God and ourselves. It is in this sense that she reminds us:

*There is no shorter path to conversion than that of silence. My children, do you wish to make progress in virtue? Keep silence.*

*What can be done to restore a lax community?*

*Introduce silence. Once it's there, you'll soon see regularity shine through. (Lent with Marie Rivier)*

In the depths of silence, in contemplation of the Heart of Jesus, grace works subtly and quietly. It heals our wounds and guides us towards sanctification, while shaping our hearts to correspond to the Lord's Heart, so that we can gradually acquire his thoughts and feelings.

*Let us examine our desires and the secret thoughts of our hearts.*

Marie Rivier

To enter His Heart is to let Him transform and save us. *His Word penetrates us and, like a scalpel, works deep down to free us from the evil that nestles in our lives. At times, this Word is painful, as it strikes at hypocrisies, unmasks false excuses, exposes hidden truths, but at the same time, it illuminates and purifies, provides strength and hope. It is a precious tonic on our journey of faith.* (Pope Francis, Vatican News, January 18, 2025)

*Jesus Christ is the physician who heals our souls.*

*He is the fountain of living water.* Marie Rivier

**Gentleness, humility, patience:** Marie Rivier asks us to cultivate certain traits that are essential for a holy soul.

*Work peacefully to become gentle, humble and patient.*

*How much we need God's Spirit! So let our first care on every occasion be to invoke him, and to ask ourselves: is it the Spirit of Jesus Christ who is making me act and speak? What was his teaching on this? What would he do and say if he were in my place? (DA p. 34-35)*

By paying close attention to the things that prompt us to speak or act, we'll be able to discern the path taken by the Spirit. Above all, Marie Rivier urges us not to be discouraged from praying ardently to Heaven. We need to continue asking for divine love until a few sparks ignite our hearts. This form of prayer is a heartfelt sigh to God.

*The spirit of prayer is a cry, a continual sigh to God, and the greatest grace God can bestow on a soul is to keep it in this state. Do not say that your occupations are too absorbing for you to be able to pray continually. While the mind and body are at work, can the heart not also do its work? (EV p.41)*

<p><b>Reflection:</b> Do I let my heart be purified by the Spirit of Jesus Christ? I name my resistances... And my victories...</p>
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**Prayer** Lord Jesus Christ, heal me of the hardness of my heart. Make my heart like Yours: strong and merciful, vigilant and generous, not closed in on itself or caught in the trap of the globalization of selfishness and indifference. Amen.

Pope Francis



Troisième jour : 14 mai 2025

## Union of hearts

**Introduction:** What is the mystery of the Incarnation, if not the fulfillment of God's desire to be ONE with human beings? In Jesus the man, human desire is fully united with God's desire and creates a perfect covenant.



**Word of God:** "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Remain in my love. John 15:9

**Silence**

**Commentaries :**

*Your names must be written in the Heart of Jesus in letters of gold. This same love must also engrave its name in your hearts. Each letter of this adorable name will be engraved there in letters of gold by each good victory you win over yourselves, whether through humility, mortification or charity. (ES, pp. 62-63))*

## The Heart of Jesus leads us to the Father

Contemplation of the Heart of Jesus draws us into union with Him... However, at the same time, we need to realise that Jesus speaks of himself as the way to the Father: "I am the way... No one comes to the Father except through me." It is He (the Father) who is ultimately to be glorified as source and fullness. He loved us. When the Son becomes man, all the desires and aspirations of his human Heart are directed towards the Father... The Holy Spirit at work in the Heart of Christ draws him unceasingly to the Father. And when he unites us to the sentiments of Christ through grace, he makes us sharers in the

Son's relationship to the Father, whereby we receive "a spirit of adoption through which we cry out, 'Abba! Father!'" (Rom 8:15) (He Loved Us, Encyclical Letter of Pope Francis, 24 Oct. 2024, No 70 & 76)

It is in this sense that Marie Rivier writes:

*The love and possession of God  
are the beatitude of the Heart of Jesus Christ.*

### **Union with Christ through prayer and charity**

Our union with Christ is achieved in two ways and nourished by the same burning love: prayer and service to our brothers and sisters.

Through prayer, we join the Heart of Christ, who gives us his confidence and strength to weather the storms of life, because he is an inexhaustible source of love, gentleness and serenity. Furthermore, he inspires us to share with others the life of love he gives us.

*Yes, it is the practice of this union, shaped and ever sustained by charity, that makes for the happiness of a community, giving it the fragrance of Jesus Christ, and making it the delightful garden of the Bridegroom. (ES p. 149)*

*When you are tempted to depart from the holy laws of charity... suspend for a moment the impetuosity of your bitterness, your impatience, your antipathy and place this child, this sick person, etc., in the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and see how much this good Master loves them. (ES, p.154)*

*We must all be on fire to set hearts ablaze with his Love.*

Marie River

Let us be resolutely attentive to preserving unity in the world. We trust and rely on the strength of the Heart of Jesus Christ, an inexhaustible well of love, gentleness and peace. Those who follow him find refuge and comfort in him.

Let us be of one heart and one soul. God is Love. We know that our deepest desire is to be one with Love.

**Reflection:** Do I ask for the grace to become configured to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, so that he can pour out his love on humanity? Do I maintain unity around me?

### **Prayer** Father

Draw my mind and heart to yourself.  
Teach my soul to lift itself up to you,  
to fix its gaze on you.

May I never tire of seeking you,  
seeking your face unceasingly,  
keeping my eyes fixed on you!

Amen

Marie River



**Paradise is  
Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
He is ours, He is near us,  
He is within us.**

**Saint Marie Rivier**

**TRIDUUM MRA**

Castel Gandolfo, 12 to 14 May 2025