

The Fourvière Pledge

Session Three: "Forward Movement"

Personal reflection BEFORE the Gathering

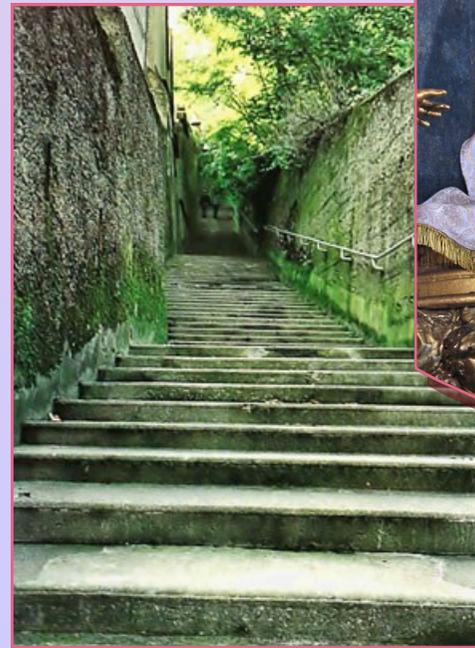
Is there anything from the last two sessions that need further 'pondering' before proceeding to this third gathering? If so, what?

Create Together

- a. Do we Marists **actually** "accept all sufferings, trials, inconveniences and, if needs be, .torture.." today? Do we really believe "...we can do all things in Christ Jesus who strengthens us .." or do we hold back?
- b. What conversation, begun today, could ripple out in a way that created **new possibilities** for a renewed hope and energy for the future?
- c. What seed could you plant together that would **make a difference** to the future of your Marist community dedicating "...all we have in saving souls in every way under the ...name of the Virgin Mary..."

Reflections

July 23 1816



July 23 2016

The Pledge of Fourvière

Marist Family Bicentenary Celebrations 1816-2016

The Fourvière Pledge

Session Two: "Connecting Ideas, Finding Deeper Insight"

Dear Marists

Please find here a series of three Community *Reflections* created to assist you in your celebration of this 2016 Bicentenary of The Pledge of Fourvière!

Our aims in providing these are to provoke a sense of 'curiosity and wonder' at the significance of the Fourvière Pledge for today; to foster an enhanced sense of Marist identity as "Marist Family", and to boost a renewal of energy, hope, joy, motivation and commitment to the 'work of Mary'.

We believe that we co-create our reality through language, thoughts, images and beliefs. It is in the very act of reflecting and questioning that we are influenced in how we see our reality, in this case the impact of the Pledge of Fourvière. The 'story' of the Pledge continues to be interpreted by succeeding generations - the question is, how does it change the way we live our charism today?

*Marist Family Committee for the
2016 Bicentenary of the Fourvière Pledge*

Personal reflection BEFORE the Gathering

What emerged from your last reflection that will make a difference to how you live your Marist life now?

Imagine Together

- a. Imagine yourself as one of the 12 getting ready for the Eucharist at Fourvière. What are you **hoping for** by taking this step at this time of your life?
- b. If you could **ask a question** about something expressed in the Pledge, what would it be? How would the answer to your question make a difference to your future?
- c. If there is one thing that this group **didn't say** that would have taken you to a deeper level, what would it be?

The Fourvière Pledge

Session One: "Focussing Attention"

Personal reflection BEFORE the Gathering

From your reading and reflection on The Pledge of Fourvière, what has real meaning for you? What challenges and inspires you?

Understand Together

- a. Share on any points, observations, or challenges emerging from your 'personal' reflection.
- b. If you wanted to express your appreciation for a **particular** aspect of the Pledge, what would that be?
- c. In your opinion, what is the **essence** of this Pledge making it so unique and strong?
- d. Is there anything essential for Marist charism as you understand it today, that you would now add to the Pledge?

Suggestions for Community Gatherings

1. These Reflections can be used in a Community Meeting setting or as shared prayer and reflection.
2. Before the 'Reflection' session find some personal time to prepare yourself as indicated.
3. At the beginning of each community session begin with some Marian prayer or song suitable to the reflection.
4. To begin each "*Reflection*" Session read the Pledge provided either silently, or aloud using one person or two or altogether as desired.
5. Pause after the reading and try to absorb the message being conveyed to you personally by the Pledge.
6. At the end of the gathering, recite or sing the Magnificat or Salve Regina or other suitable prayer in a spirit of thanksgiving.
7. No form of feedback is required
8. As a gathering, decide how you will manage the timing of the three reflections over the course of the year.

The Fourvière Pledge 1816

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All for the greater glory of God and the greater honour of Mary, Mother of the Lord Jesus.

We the undersigned, striving to work together for the greater glory of God and the honour of Mary, Mother of the Lord Jesus, assert and declare our sincere intention and firm will of consecrating ourselves at the first opportunity to founding the pious congregation of Mariists. That is why by the present act and our signatures, in so far as we can, we irrevocably dedicate ourselves and all our goods, to the Society of the Blessed Virgin.

We do this, not childishly or lightly or for some human motive or the hope of material benefit, but seriously, maturely, having taken advice, having weighed everything before God, solely for the greater glory of God and the honour of Mary, Mother of the Lord Jesus.

We pledge ourselves to accept all sufferings, trials, inconveniences and, if needs be, torture, because we can do all things in Christ Jesus who strengthens us and to whom we hereby promise fidelity in the bosom of our holy mother the Roman Catholic Church,

cleaving with all our strength to its supreme head the Roman pontiff and to our most reverend bishop, the ordinary, that we may be good ministers of Jesus Christ, nourished with the words of faith and of the wholesome teaching which by his grace we have received.

We trust that, under the reign of our most Christian King, the friend of peace and religion, this institute will shortly come to light and we solemnly promise that we shall spend ourselves and all we have in saving souls in every way under the very august name of the Virgin Mary and with her help.

All this is subject to the wiser judgement of our superiors.

May the Holy and Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary be praised.

Amen.

(July 23, 1816. OM 1, doc 50)

Four copies of the Pledge of Fourvière exist, we have chosen this version for these Reflections taken from "A Book of Texts" by Edwin Keel SM p. 79