

MARY MUST BE THE “GREAT SIGN” IN WALK IN CARE OF LIFE

NOVEMBER 29 TO DECEMBER 7

PRESENTATION

We would like that through this year’s novena, Mary helps us become aware of begetting, growing, giving and caring for life as she did on her pilgrimage.

This special time of pandemic generates a desolate environment of uncertainties in humanity on the one hand and on the other hand, we feel the calls of creation making us to feel the necessity to listen and care for it; It is our responsibility for today and tomorrow. The Church tells us again with a prophetic voice that it is necessary to recognize ourselves as brothers and unite to engender, grow, give and care for life, for we cannot be alone. The strong call to care for fraternity and unity in the Congregation still resounds within us, feeling that we are one family.

From the hand of Mary Immaculate and with her attentive and silent gaze, we hope that these days will motivate us to do our part for a healthier world, with hope and trust in God always present in history. Chronic problems that threaten the future of humanity - climate change, wars, hunger, ever greater inequalities ... adding to this endless problem is the current pandemic, caused by covid 19, with consequences of death, poverty, uncertainty and Loneliness continues to knock on our door and especially affects the poorest and most forgotten who await a coherent, generous and supportive response. Mary invites us to fight against evil in any of its forms to take care of the life that is given to us as a gift. With joy and hope, let us make this journey with her.

we are sending this novena proposal, in order to help the communities and apostolic centers to celebrate this feast. Each community can adapt it according to its characteristics and needs and harmonize it with the appropriate hymns of the place.



FIRST DAY: MARY SAYS YES TO LIFE

Nov. 29

Symbol: each participant is notified previously to bring a sign or symbol that expresses their "YES" to life

Introduction:

Mary in the house of Nazareth, living her daily life in the midst of her things, she certainly places herself in the total presence of God in an attitude of silence, listening and openness. To the words of the angel, she opens her trusting and generous heart to the Father's plan, with the firm hope of collaborating with Him: "let it be as you say, let it be as you promise." This Fiat, this timid and serene phrase has to be our daily response to what the Lord asks of us beyond our frailty. He wants to make us instruments of his plan and if we allow him we will share the joy that Mary experienced in sharing the saving action with God.

Let us listen to the Word

Before listening to the Word, let us become aware of this community time, of those who are near and far, let us come into contact with our being, let us savor the silence, as a time where God spoke to Mary, to Maria Antonia Paris and today to us inviting us to renew our response to his call to create life.

Lk 1 26-38. Where ever possible, it can be done by two narrators (prepared before hand).

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, you who enjoy God's favour! The Lord is with you. She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Look! You are to conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Highest. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end. Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I have no knowledge of man? The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. And I tell you this too: your cousin Elizabeth also, in her old age, has conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' Mary said, 'You see before you the Lord's servant, let it happen to me as you have said.' And the angel left her."

- ***Silent meditation with background music***

Psalm: We greet you Mary

1. **All: we greet you Mary,**
because the Lord is with you;
in your house, your street, your town,
in your embrace, your bosom.

2. **All: we greet you Mary,**
because you were disturbed
–Who wouldn't do before such news ?;
quicker you regained peace and
courage
and you believed God in his
Messenger.

3. **All: we greet you Mary,**
because you asked what you didn't
understand
–Even if it was a divine message–,
and you did not give a naive or a blind yes,
but you dialogued and your own word.

4. **All: we greet you Mary,**
because you conceived and gave
birth
the Son of God, the God with us,
and you showed us how much life
need to bear and care
if we want to make God
present on this earth.

5. **All: we greet you Mary,**
because you let yourself be guided by the
Spirit
and you remained in its shadow,
both in darkness and in days
of light,
letting God be God
and not giving up to be yourself¹.

Claretian Corner

Our Claretian vocation is a gift to which we must respond day by day, living in a total availability to the will of the Father, joyfully committed to teach the Lord's holy law to every creature, in a lifestyle that is laborious, simple and poor.²

“My Lord and my God, if you do not tell me in what religious order you want me to enter so as to comply with your command, I do not know how this will be done.” Because by all means I wanted to be a religious. “My God, perhaps do you want something new?” ... I asked this question by the Divine inspiration because it pleased his Divine Majesty to be asked with simplicity,..., because in God there is nothing impossible, our Lord did not take it wrong, because it was asked not of our curiosity, much less of mistrust in the infinite power of God; it came from a heart determined to comply with the divine will, cost what it may. ...that as soon as I know the will of God, there is nothing difficult to me, blessed be God for his goodness. Thus, our Lord told me with much pleasure: “Yes, my daughter, I want a new order, but not new in doctrine but new in practice.” ...³

Silent meditation

¹ Cf. <https://www.feadulta.com/es/a-modo-de-salmos.html>.

² Const 75

³ Aut. MP,7

Reflection....

Let us contemplate in these two women an attitude of listening, of dialogue, and of a prompt, generous and trusting response to God's dream about them for a salvific response to the needs of humanity, generating desires to develop life, something new that becomes light, hope, joy ... Like them, God also has his dream about us today to respond to the reality of our time. Are you letting God realize it in you? how is your availability?

Community resonances: echoes, intercessions...

- Hymn: Magnificat

Final prayer:

Lord God, as we pray of your call to Mary and María Antonia París, and of their generous response, giving everything to make room for the emerging new life, strengthen us today, to give our " YES "generous in the service of all life that germinates in humanity and creation. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen

Final Hymn:



SECOND DAY: SEGUNDO DIA: MARY SETS ON THE WAY TO CARE FOR LIFE

Nov. 30

(Before hand prepare a place with paper and pencils. Upon entering, participants are invited to take this material)

Introduction:

With Mary today we review our attitude of going forth, of having light luggage to listen to the pain of humanity, the cries of creation and letting ourselves carried away by the Spirit of God whom we need most today. It is a time to close our eyes, breathe deeply, listen to our heart beats and in it we meet the living God in our daily lives ... in places, people, situations that need a embrace, support, word, gesture company. ...

With background music: invite to write names of people, places or situations that today cry out for help, solidarity, compassion, inclusion, fraternity, love, peace ... and slowly they can place it near Mary.

Hymn...

Let us listen to the Word

This text invites us to contemplate Mary in the attitude of listening and readiness to put herself at the service of life accompanying her cousin Elizabeth. Mary comes out of herself and takes risks, decides to be the hands and voice of God for her cousin Elizabeth. María Antonia París also tells us that by discovering God's will, his wish, no difficulty stops her to put herself in an attitude of going forth and taking all risks, making it possible so that God acts in and through her to restore the face of the Church.

Lk. 1, 39-44.

Mary set out at that time and went as quickly as she could into the hill country to a town in Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now it happened that as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? Look, the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy.'

Silent meditation

Psalm 34

Ant. Let the poor hear and rejoice.

1. I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad.

3. Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
This poor soul cried, and was heard by
the LORD, and was saved from every trouble.

5. I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad.

2. O magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together.
I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.

4. The angel of the LORD encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers
them.
O taste and see that the LORD is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him.

Claretian corner

So, we ought to sail as soon as possible... On the "Teresa Cubana" whose captain was for him, totally trustworthy and he would bring us with much care. I received this letter as an express call of God because, since His Divine Majesty had assured me that this holy man would give me a hand to found the first house of the order, I did not harbour the least doubt that this New World was the place where God our Lord had determined to start His work. In spite of the many difficulties of a travel so frightful for a woman, nothing intimidated me always trusting in the all-powerful grace of God to whom everything is subject, the earth as well as the sea. ... So, all my doubts being banished, and I myself certified of the Divine will, I did not think of anything, but to plan for the long trip.⁴

Silent meditation

Let us ask if we are responding to ecclesial and congregational call today, "to open doors and windows, to be going forth". What steps are we taking at the personal, community and apostolic centers?

⁴ Cf Aut. MP,127

Community resonances: forgiveness and thanksgiving

Forgiveness: Invite the participants to ask for forgiveness for the times that we have not taken steps or we do not allow others to move forward out of fear or false prudence... we can gather all these petitions of forgiveness, praying together "Our Father".

Thanksgiving: for small steps taken

Hymn: Magnificat

Final Prayer:

Mary, God has looked at you with mercy and you overflowed with joy and ardour to proclaim the beauty of God's love. You went on the road, make us go in apostolic March! May we never hold back the desire to announce the Good News due to our limitations

You showed us that the humble and simple are privileged by God; that the hungry and beggars will sit at the banquet of the Kingdom, if we are in the crossroads to welcome them and accompany them, this will be the place of encounter with Jesus.

*Give us your faith and wisdom to teach the same way, because being with others makes it always easier at the end. Mary of the Visitation lighten our feet and fill our hearts with a song of gratitude.⁵
Amen*

Final Hymn



THIRD DAY: MARY CARES AND SURRENDERS LIFE

Dec. 1

Introduction:

Preferential love is shown to those in greatest need; it undergirds everything we do on their behalf. Only a gaze transformed by charity can enable the dignity of others to be recognised and, as a consequence, the poor to be acknowledged and valued in their dignity, respected in their identity and culture, and thus truly integrated into society. That gaze is at the heart of the authentic spirit of politics.⁶ Let us ask Mary, the first among the poor, that the Sacrifices born of love leads us to committed actions for life.

Hymn

Let us listen to the Word

We suggest to read the text twice. The first time read narrative way: narrator, angels, shepherds ... Assume the roles: Mary, Joseph, the newborn child, shepherds, angels. In an atmosphere of silence, placing oneself

⁵ DC 2017

⁶ (Cf Fratelli tutti, 187)

in the place of the characters. The second one, slow reading and then invite to internalize this Word and then do an echo.

In this time of silence and encounter, let us imagine the sleeplessness, the feelings, emotions, perhaps found... the agitation of a couple at the moment their child's birth, above all of a poor couple or a single mother.... What goes through our mind and heart... let us visualize this image for a few seconds.... I wonder how God cares for these his children? I prepare myself to listen very carefully to the Word that reveals God who became one of us.

Lk 2, 1-19

"Now it happened that at this time Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be made of the whole inhabited world. ... took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to be registered, each to his own town. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee for Judaea, to David's town called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. Now it happened that, while they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the living-space. In the countryside close by there were shepherds out in the fields keeping guard over their sheep during the watches of the night. An angel of the Lord stood over them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Look, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And all at once with the angel there was a great throng of the hosts of heaven, praising God with the words: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace for those he favours. Now it happened that when the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go to Bethlehem and see this event which the Lord has made known to us.' So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child, they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds said to them. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart."

After the second time of the Reading, silence and echo as suggested above.

PSALM: GOD BECAME BROTHER AND SON

The Word became flesh, sensible and tender, warm and near, dear, God fond, God man, Son and brother, free and palpable. There was caress and grace, cry and weeping, laughter and dialogue, sonorous silence, babbling of a child, echo of those who have no voice, good news, joyful song, liberating touch ... And it humanized us!⁷ YES

Claretian corner:

In the Cave of Bethlehem she discovers all the tenderness of a God who humbles himself to the utmost nearness. "... Love has torn God himself from heaven! The love of a God made man has taught us his prompt observance. he gives us the first lesson from the cave of Bethlehem of his infant vulnerability. Oh, if we learn from this master cave, what a perfect disciples we would be! In this holy and most happy cave, describes us of this Child God... this stunned God ... keeping his most holy law".⁸

Ah! All God made man deigns to come down from heaven to teach us the fulfillment of his most holy Law by word and deed so that no one would excuse himself from fulfilling it. In what costume does this great Lord, to whom belong heaven and earth appear, to teach us the keeping of the Divine Commandments? I do not see more in the holy cave! Happy cave! What extreme poverty and a

⁷ Cf. https://recursos.catequesisdegalicia.com/pluginfile.php/585/mod_resource/content/1/Navidad-B-2-Vivamos_un_tiempo_nuevo.pdf

⁸ Cf. Aut. MP, PR.66

wonder of humility But as if humility could not walk without poverty... Oh poverty of my God! Oh in greed of mortals, to satisfy your greed, you have placed the Divine Commandments under your feet! See, then, the children of this new Order with how much love you must kiss the book of the holy Gospels, ... and the great love they must have for holy Poverty because they see that Our Divine Master places it as the foundation of the evangelical life. ⁹.

Hymn

Reflection

Effective love is a reality from “Social love”, only in this way it is possible to advance towards a civilization of love, to which all of us can feel called. Charity, with its impulse to universality, is capable of building a new world. No mere sentiment, it is the best means of discovering effective paths of development for everyone. Social love is a “force capable of inspiring new ways of approaching the problems of today’s world, of profoundly renewing structures, social organizations and legal systems from within»¹⁰. As proclaimers of the Gospel, what does it reveal to us? With what concrete actions are we making love effective?

Resonances from community (sharing)

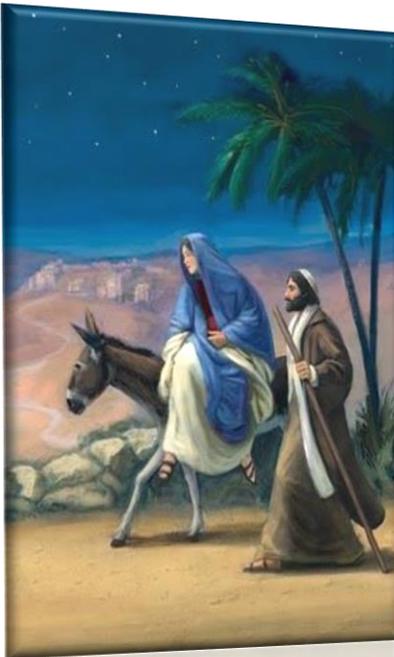
Concluding prayer

You come into our world and you invite us to open the door of our heart to all men. You have told us that it is you who comes when someone knocks on our door. Lord: may we know to listen your voice, that voice that comes to us through our brothers. May we open the door to welcome You, and in You all: men and women. Amen¹¹

⁹ Cf. Aut. MP, PR 67

¹⁰ Cf. Fratelli tutti 183.

¹¹ <https://pastoralsj.org/recursos/oraciones/153-abre-tu-puerta>



FOURTH DAY: **MARY THE MIGRANT, DEFENDING LIFE**

Dec. 2

Suggestion

If there is a possibility invite a migrant or someone who is connected, for a sharing of experience. Set an environment of silence and contemplative listening to the sharing of the person ... getting in tune with him / her.

May the Holy Family of Nazareth help us to understand and seek attitudes of welcoming and listen to those who live as migrants.

Introduction

Today we are invited to reflect, on a scene that is a bit strange but very much present in our world: migration. It is an experience that is not alien to anyone, it invites us to open our hearts and maintain attitudes of love to discover that we are all in need of help. Let us be moved by the experience of the Nazareth family migrating to Egypt, to save their lives from violence which millions of migrants continue to live today.

Hymn

Let us listen to the Word:

The gospel introduces us to Joseph who makes quick decisions, for sure Mary as well is committed to protect life and they cross the desert with readiness, trust and surety in God. Let's enter the scene and contemplate God who is fleeing, migrating, not alone, but as a family.

Matthew 2: 13-15

After they had left, suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: I called my son out of Egypt.

Silent meditation with background music

Witnessing experience of migrant

One person asks...

Would you tell us about what it meant for you to leave your land, your place of origin, family, etc.

For reflection (in case you do not have the testimony):

Jesus wanted to be part of a family that experienced these difficulties, so that no one feels excluded from the loving closeness of God. The flight to Egypt caused by Herod's threats shows us that God is present where man is in danger, where man suffers, where man flees, where he experiences

rejection and abandonment; But God is also there where man dreams, hopes to return to his homeland in freedom, projects and chooses in favor of life and of his the dignity and his relatives.

ANT: in your hands i place my life

1. **You are my refuge** In you, Lord, I seek refuge, do not let me be ever be putt o shame , in your righteousness deliver me.
2. **You deliver me** from the storms, you defend me in the fight, you guide me in the shadows, you conducts my life
3. **I will exult and rejoice** in your steadfast love, because you have seen my affliction; you have taken heed of my adversities, and have not delivered me into the hand of the enemy; you have set my feet in a broad place.
4. **When I am** in distress and my eye wastes away from grief, my throat and my bowels... Lord, in you i trust when I lose my strength: I say to myself: "You are my God".¹²

Claretian corner

Bishop Claret not only preaches and hears confessions, but contacts with the hearts of immigrants and understands their suffering and needs. He admits in a letter, "In this [Paris] foreigners need protection, or else they despair, they commit suicide (I was horrified when I read the other day, that 1,200 people commit suicide in Paris per year) "... He wrote in a letter: " God our Lord wanted to use me to found conferences of the Holy family, Jesus, Joseph and Mary in order to help Spaniards of spain or America, men, women and children, who come here [Paris]... "One gentlemen and another women, whose purpose is to shelter, protect, give collation to as many Spaniards as they present themselves... In my last spiritual conference or sermon to them, I explained of the plan of the collection, that we would pay the expenses of the church, and the left over fund will be used to start the conferences of the Holy Family . A considerable sum was collected, and indeed it has been." ¹³ Nothing really scares a "follower of Jesus" that is how Father Claret expresses it not only with Words but with his life. And in the light of the Word he illuminates what happens in his life and becomes sensitive to human suffering, better say a Samaritan whose sense is open to feel the pain of the brother, be horrified and make decisions.

Today we let ourselves be horrified like Claret at this drama that has become a daily bread? What can we do as a community or apostolic center in the face of this inhuman drama?

Silent meditation

Community resonances (sharing)

Share the feelings, echoes and commitments that helps to sensitize us to this evil, let us be horrified - touch the heart.

Concluding prayer:

Father, you entrusted to St. Joseph your most valuable thing: the Child Jesus and his mother, to protect them from the dangers and threats of the wicked.

¹² Salmo 31

13 Cf. EC., II, Pág. 1374-1377.

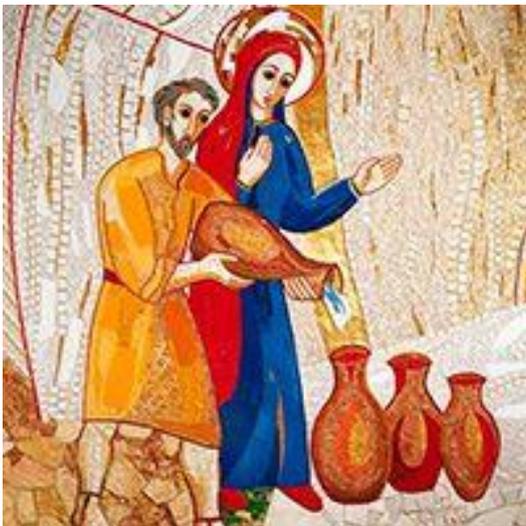
Grant us the experience his protection and help. He, who suffered the suffering of those who flee because of the hatred of the powerful, may he be able to console and protect all the brothers and sisters who abandon their home and their land, to set out, as refugees, to safer places due to wars, poverty and necessity.

through his intercession, Help them to have strength to move on, consolation in sadness, courage in trial.

Give to those persons who welcome them, a little of the tenderness of this just and wise father, who loved Jesus as a true son and sustained Mary along the way.

He, who earned his bread with his work, can provide them what life has taken away, and give them the dignity of a job and the serenity of a home.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, who St. Joseph saved by fleeing to Egypt, and through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, whom he loved as a faithful spouse according to your will. Amén.¹⁴



FIFTH DAY: MARY GIVES MEANING TO LIFE

Dec. 3

Introduction:

To be human is to recognize that we are made to relate, to live and celebrate with others, but for this it is necessary to feel that we abide in a sacred place, stripping of ourselves to be able to understand the other of what he is. On this day, let us participate in the wedding of Cana with Mary and observe how she does. Let us ask her to help us to be sensitive, attentive as she was.

Hymn

Let us listen to the Word

Let us prepare our hearts attentively to meet Mary. we go to the wedding in Cana with Mary and learn how to be attentive to others.

John 2: 1-5

¹⁴ mensaje para la 106 Jornada Mundial del Migrante y del Refugiado (27 de septiembre de 2020), el papa Francisco

" Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. And they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the feast had all been used, and the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' 4. Jesus said, 'Woman, what do you want from me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.

Silencio meditativo

Mary has learned to be a disciple and a missionary, she knows how to feel the need of others, she comes out of herself and feels with the other. She becomes sensitive to the needs, pain, and suffering of those around her, but she also does it with prudence and delicacy. And then she goes further, she asks not for her, not for her comfort, not to show off herself as the mother of Jesus... she asks for others. What does this attitude of Mary teach us today? Do we want to take the risk like her of being possibly told no?

Ant. ¡Do what he tells you!

1. **For** our most wanted meetings
where we celebrate what you give us;
for fraternal encounters
where you make our love grow,
we have no wine.

2. **For** protest rally
asking for peace, work and justice;
for the feast of human commitment
where we celebrate victories and failures,
we have no wine.

5. **And** that's why we walk sad and timid,
without grace and with illusion turned off.
We lack shared joy
although jugs and jars abound.
We have no wine!¹⁵

3. **For** the solidarity embrace with immigrants
who claim the most elementary rights;
for our everyday celebrations
simple, intimate, dear,
we have no wine.

4. **For** the alliance of all civilizations,
from the rich world to the poor world;
for the weddings of your sons and daughters
who recreates your project of joy and life,
we have no wine.

Clharismatic corner

For the proclamation of the Gospel

Today, We need to discover the boldness of Claret and Paris, as they did in their time that this proclamation of the Gospel reaches to our brothers who are in need of the Gospel.

The proclamation of the Gospel should always take place:

- *In an attitude of listening, dialogue and acceptance, to realize the needs of our brothers and sisters, the men and women of today, and to seek together the paths of the Gospel.*
- *Respond to people who seek the meaning of their lives, to help them find true and full happiness, their freedom and dignity as person.*
- *Have a positive attitude to approach a multitude of areas, in which there are people who effectively aspire to change society; collaborate with them in the search for new channels of thought and action, with warmth, love and close personal relationships.*

¹⁵ Cf. <https://www.feadulta.com/es/buscadoravanzado/item/7220-no-tenemos-vino.html>

- Propose the Gospel values to those who have not stopped to think about another way of understanding life, outside the chaotic prevailing rhythm.
- Reflecting the living God who dwells and challenges us and fosters the search and experience of God, the contemplative attitude.
- Promote a more human spirituality, a commitment to human beings, based on the joy and hope that Good News of Jesus brings.¹⁶

Question for the community sharing:

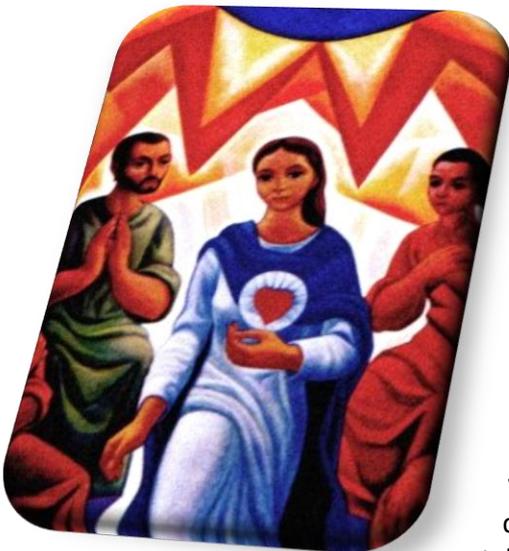
What do Paris and Claret suggest us today on this never-ending journey of returning to the Church the merciful face of Christ?

Concluding prayer:

We make the prayer together: Each participant can highlight a word that resonates. One who animates can begin by saying we offer you with a grateful attitude the call to.... Give meaning to life, ...etc.

In the end we gather all that is expressed and what remains in the heart with the following song

Final hymn



Sixth day: MARY THE MISSIONARY- LISTENS AND ENLIVENS THE WORD

Dec. 4

Introduction

We can start by listening to each other, answering the following question (or another according to the environment where the prayer takes place) How to take care of human life and all of creation? After having listened to each other, we can ask ourselves and how do I take care of my life, that of my family, that of my environment? Let us close our eyes and become aware that we are the family of God invited to listen and put his Word into practice as Mary did. Let us ask through her for the ability to listen and help others so that his life has meaning.

¹⁶ Autores Varios, *Ser Claretiana para el mundo de hoy, Nuestra identidad y pertenencia carismática*, Madrid 2011.Pag.224

Hymn

Let us listen to the Word

While we reading and listening to the word let us be impressed and learn from Jesus and Mary how their lives have meaning and give meaning to others.

Luke 8: 19-20

Suggestion: can be read twice,

First Reading: using the drip method, which consists of spontaneously or previously chosen people reading the sentence or words between slash or slashes;

second time with a single reader and in a very slow way inviting to listen.

"His mother / and his brothers / came looking for him, / but they could not get him / because of the crowd. / He was told, / 'Your mother / and brothers / are standing outside / and want to see you. '"

Silent meditation: Play a background music. Then invite to echo the Word.

Ant: Lord, may your choice of produce
fruits of life.

1. Lord, I realize
that everything you ask of me
is a simple 'yes',
a simple act of trust
so that, the choice that you make for me
bear fruit in my life.

2. I don't want to be too busy
with my way of living,
my plans and projects,
my relatives, friends and acquaintances,
that I do not even realize
that you are with me,
closer than any other.

3. I don't want to be blind to gestures of love
that come from your hands,
nor deaf to loving words
that come from your mouth.

4. I want to see you when you walk with me
and listen to you when you speak to me.¹⁷

Charismatic corner

The Immaculate Virgin Mary, whose "yes" to God became a service to human beings, should be our strength and our model in the evangelization of peoples, because Christ chose to come among us through Her. We must make her to be loved as mother and lady who guides all to her Son.¹⁸

If Christ is the fountain, Mary is the strength and the model of evangelization...we are instruments in her hands, her extension in this giving birth to the Works of light against darkness,... she is also our model in the mission of evangelization, because she knew how to listen and be open to accept the Word in her heart and in her mind before than in her body, and thus gave him to all. Her attitude

¹⁷CF. <https://pastoralsj.org/recursos/oraciones/117-solo-un-si>

¹⁸ Const. 62

as disciple evangelizes us, so we can evangelize others. In our apostolic action we must make her be loved as the mother and the lady who leads us to her son¹⁹.

Silent meditation

Intercessory prayer: We place our prayers in the hands of Mary, responding: **Through the intercession of Mary, listen to us Father.**

- For the Church, which has received the mission to be a visible sign of God's tenderness, so that she always hears the voice of the Father who guides her, we pray:
- For those most suffering, from the consequences of the evil in the world, so that they experience God's love through people with a newness of heart, we pray:
- For those most affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and for all those who are dedicating themselves to battle on different fronts - health, social, scientific, economic, spiritual ..., we pray:
- - For those who have closed their hearts to the voice of God and remain confined in the narrow world of their interests, we pray:
- - For the missionaries who have given their lives to the proclamation of God's mercy in all corners of the world, we pray
- For all of us, who have gathered around Mary that her attitude of receiving the word and fulfilling it, moves us to be true witnesses of the Lord in our families and workplaces. We pray:

Final hymn

SEVENTH DAY: JESUS ENTRUST THE LIFE OF THE DISCIPLES TO MARY

Dec. 5

Setting

Set a place with crucified Jesus and sorrowful mother, adding some representations of pain, suffering, death ... of our realities. (2 or three) Prepare paper and pencils and invite participants to write names of people or situations of pain or death around us.

Today we are invited to live contemplatively together with Mary, in front of this everyday scenario, because today Jesus continues to be crucified and dying and Mary continues to stand beside our pain, of our brothers and of the whole world.

Introduction:

¹⁹ Cf. Claretian Missionary Sisters, *Constitutions: Identity, memory and Prophecy, theological, historical and charismatic comments*, Mysore 2010. Page 209.

Let's contemplate Mary next to the cross... let's listen to her.... There she becomes our Mother ..., her capacity to love gives her the opportunity to welcome us as children ..., right there she teaches us to give a new meaning to pain and suffering, with her and with Jesus our sufferings, pains, sorrows, acquiring a sense of redemption, because where there is love there is no death. Our God is the God of life.

Hymn: While a suitable song is played, each one places what is written next to Jesus and Mary.

Let us listen to the Word

JOHN 19: 25-27

"Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary of Magdala. Seeing his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, 'Woman, this is your son.' Then to the disciple he said, 'This is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his home."

Prolonged time for silence with background

Read personally:

We are facing a sign of contradiction, but the final language of this sign IS GOD'S PASSIONATE LOVE FOR US and by contemplating Mary and the disciple at the foot of the cross, can help us understand or try to approach this experience of God's love and of Mary... we can ask ourselves: how do I experience pain and suffering in myself and in our communities? With what actions can I manifest my capacity to love? What can I learn tonight from Mary at the cross? Let me talk and listen to her...

Concluding prayer:

***Oh, Mary, you always shine on our way
as a sign of salvation and hope.
We trust you,
that beside the cross
you associated yourself with the pain of Jesus,
keeping your faith firm.
You, salvation of all peoples,
you know what we need
and we are sure that you will grant
so that, as in Cana of Galilee
may the joy and the feast return
in these times of pandemic.
Help us, Mother,
to conform to the will of the Father
and do what Jesus tells us
who has taken upon himself our sufferings
and has been loaded with our pains
to carry us through the cross
to the joy of the resurrection.
Amén!²⁰***

²⁰ Cf. <http://www.pastoralsantiago.org/oracion-del-papa-ante-el-coronavirus/>



EIGHTH DAY: MARIA SUPPORTS THE COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES

Dec. 6

Introduction:

At this time we are invited to become aware that we are a praying as community with Mary in the middle.

How many times do we address her as a community, saying: "**our life, sweetness and hope**", "**our advocate**" and we beg her: "**Pray for us now and at the hour of our death.**" ... In this time of prayer we ask Mary to foster and grow in us the values that build family and community.

Hymn

Let us listen to the Word:

Let's get into this scene of the Word. What does this passage tell us?

Acts 1,14 (it can be read three times by different persons)

"With one heart all these joined constantly in prayer, together with some women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers"

Silent meditation

Mary with the power of the risen Lord, she wants to give birth to a new world, where all of us are brothers and sisters, where there is room for all those whom our societies discard, where justice and peace are resplendent.²¹

Charismatic corner:

With our community of life we wish to make visible the mystery of the communion of the Church. Mary, united with the Apostles in waiting for the coming of the Spirit, is our model in the discernment and in the fraternal communion. const.²²

Resonances (sharing) and spontaneous intercessions:

²¹ Cf. Fratelli tutti 278.

²² Const.36

Mary, mother of our people

Mary, mother of our people
You walk with us
towards the Kingdom always longed for.
Hear our prayers,
there are many people suffering in our midst.
Lack of bread in many tables,
Lack of work in many homes,
Lack of roof and decent housing,
Lack of water, so much is lacking, mother ...

*Mother join our hands
that we may grow together,
give birth to communities of new life,
that shares work
be the engine of a new way of living,
noone lacking of what is necessary
nor of scandalous excess²³ Amen*

Final hymn

²³ Cf. <http://www.buenasnuevas.com/espiritualidad/oraciones/oracion-32.htm>



NINETH DAY: FORCES OF GOOD IN THE LIFE

Dec. 7

Introduction:

On this last day of novena we go hand in hand with Mary to learn from her, how she fights against pain, indifference, selfishness, evil in any of its forms...

We invite the participants to become aware of the various forms of sin, evil that exist in the world..., in us... and they can express it out loud. Corruption, indifference...,,...after every two or three persons expressing, a chorus of a penitential song can be sung).

Hymn:

Let us listen to the Word:

The word of God today presents Mary fighting against evil. Let us listen attentively to her struggle and her desire to build the Kingdom.

Apocalipsis 12,1-4.6. 7-8.17

"A great portent appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pangs, in the agony of giving birth. Then another portent appeared in heaven: a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, so that he might devour her child as soon as it was born. And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, so that there she can be nourished for one thousand two hundred sixty days. And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. Then the dragon was angry with the woman, and went off to make war on the rest of her children, those who keep the commandments of God and hold the testimony of Jesus."

Beatitudes of the disciple

- **Blessed** are those who keep their lamps lit and share and carry them high so that they light up and guide those who walk without it and are lost in labyrinths, wounds and wailing.
- **Blessed** are those who remain awake, with their spirits on fire and their bodies in good shape, and are always awake and attentive to those who arrive at midnight, at dawn or when the sun is bright.

- **Blessed** are those who share and give themselves, and are sincerely faithful to my desire and word and know how to live as children and brothers, whether they have positions or human commands.
- **Blessed** are those who do not seek to get along, nor excuses in fatigue, age and dignity, nor of passing time, nor of the delayed reward, but continue to surrender for those who need them.
- **Blessed** are those who are not afraid of storms or droughts, or hurricanes, or calm without breeze either in or out but keep their hut/house open.
- **Blessed** are those who do not mind of being few and, even less, having nothing, because they know that the Father is with them and loves them, and gives them every day what they need for the journey.
- **Blessed** are those who respect and serve their brothers without complaint, even if they are strangers, and who neither eat nor fatten their accounts at the expense of other peoples and their citizens.
- **Blessed** are those who know they are sent and feel responsible without being overwhelmed, and accept to be children and brothers of all, and not feeling humiliated of their service.
- **Blessed** are my disciples! blessed are you! Blessed are those who need your service!²⁴

Charismatic corner

From our charism we are also invited by our charism to become aware as Christians, consecrated or lay people, to live like Jesus and the apostles and to work until death to teach every creature the Holy Law of the Lord. Mission is to be carried out with faithfulness and responsibility from our different lifestyles, lived daily in a contemplative attitude.²⁵ We do not carry out mission alone, Mary is our great sign, guide in our pilgrimage and in struggle against evil.

the Church gives us the reflection of the dogma about Mary Immaculate, it helps us to understand her as the woman full of grace, a woman full of God and no evil had place in her. The Spirit of God has preserved and protected her with his shadow during her pilgrimage on earth. It is an exceptional gift that the Virgin Mary receives from God to fulfill his dream of love for us with the help of a woman: Mary

In total availability, Mary allows in all her simplicity and humility the Lord to work in her. In all these days we have reflected, an attitude that leads her to beget, conceive, care to defend, accompany the life of Jesus in his early years, then we find her as a disciple and missionary who listens to the word and puts it into practice, at the end she encourages and accompanies the first community of disciples in chaos after the death of Jesus.

Let us be in silence and internalize the word we have heard, ask oneself: how does Mary Immaculate illuminate my way of acting today?

"Fight against all evil in any of its forms", what do you say? How does it resonate?

Community resonances (sharings):

We echo "what caught my attention, or what continues to resonate within me".

We can gather all sharings in praying or singing Hail Mary.

²⁴<https://www.facebook.com/sandrandominguezmayo2020/photos/a.104606864600735/156817162713038/?type=3>

²⁵ cf. const. 3

Concluding Prayer:

(Suggestion for this final prayer: what did you remain with of these 9 days of what we shared, reflected and prayed. Leave a few minutes of silence so that each one can make their synthesis. Then invite them to express in a phrase or a word of thanksgiving. (sharing could be long/short depends upon the number of participants)

Hymn