

St. Louis de Marillac March 15 Feast Day Prayer



Image taken from Sr. Margaret George's Scrapbook

(All) Opening Prayer: O God, as we join with others of the Vincentian family in celebrating the 350th anniversary of the death of St. Louise, we ask you to help us to come to know her better, to be inspired by her trust in your Providence, and her courage to be open to your will in her life. We ask that we may respond to your call to conversion of mind, heart and spirit so that the mission of our congregation will continue to be fanned into flame in a world so in need of love and compassion. Amen.

Words of Wisdom from St. Louise:

Reader 1: "Do not be upset if things are not as you would want them to be for a long time to come. Do the little you can very peacefully and calmly so as to allow room for the guidance of God in your lives. Do not worry about the rest."

Pause for Reflection

Reader 2: "If the virtues of humility, simplicity and that charity which supports, are well established among you, then your little family will be made up of as many saints as there are persons."

Pause for Reflection

Reader 3: "The infinite goodness and wisdom of God leave the soul free to draw on the infinite sources of God's love. God is so good that God communicates prodigious love to all. This should keep my soul very humble and dependent on the divine goodness."

Pause for Reflection

(All) Prayer Response: Lord, help me to imitate your way of living and acting: you said that you had come upon earth to serve, not to be served. Teach me to show great gentleness toward all, to imitate your goodness in welcoming them. Like you, I want to love tenderly, to be very respectful to all those I meet, to be affable and gentle to those in the greatest need. Lord, teach me to maintain always great esteem for my neighbor. Your life on earth, your death and resurrection bear witness to your love for all. [Prayer based on the spiritual writings of St. Louise de Marillac]

Words of Wisdom from St. Louise:

Reader 1: "My dear Sister, I beg you not to think of the distance between us. Rather, think of us as strongly united, incapable of ever being separated, because separation is impossible in the close union created by holy charity."

Pause for Reflection

Reader 2: "Thirst for justice, which is a more pressing need, must lead us to desire greater things. We must long for union with God and the disposition and means to attain it. We must ardently desire that the effects of His holy will reign in us; and we must do all in our power to bring about this reign in others."

Pause for Reflection

Reader 3: "Be a source of encouragement to one another; in this way your mutual good example will speak louder than words."

Pause for Reflection

(All) Response: My God, I adore you. I know that you are the one who gives me life. Because I love you and you love me, I abandon myself to your divine will, and I entrust myself to your mercy. I pray for all those whom you love so that they may fulfill the great plan of love that you have for each of them. [Prayer based on the spiritual writings of St. Louise de Marillac]

Closing Song: "Call Us to Your Table" (*Breaking Bread*, #352)

Refrain: Call us to your table. Make us one in love.
O Lord, feed us, strengthen us, and lead us;
With the saints above, make us one in love.

Verses sung by cantor.