

PREPARATORY NOVENA
FOR THE FEAST OF MARY OF THE INCARNATION
April 30, 2022 -350TH ANNIVERSARY OF HER DEATH



PRESENTATION

The universal Church is in a SYNODAL PATH.

WE are all in a SYNODAL process, we WALK TOGETHER according to the etymological meaning of the word s y n o d.

At her beatification in 1980, Mary of the Incarnation was declared MOTHER OF THE CANADIAN CHURCH by Pope Saint John Paul II.

At her canonization in 2014, by Pope Francis, she was declared APOSTLE OF THE AMERICAS together with Saint François de Laval whose diocese extended as far as New Orleans.

We are the heirs of her spiritual DNA.

This 2022 novena presents itself to us as a privileged occasion to revisit our “ecclesial sense” in thanking God for the unique gift she was and remains for the Church and the world and asking her to vivify ever more in us the grace of her heritage.

REFERENCES

Words of Pope Francis:

Homily on the Opening of the Synodal Path, October 10, 2021

Address to the Faithful of the diocese of Rome, September 18, 2021

Message for the International Day of Persons with disabilities, December 3, 2021

Writings of Mary of the Incarnation:

La Relation autobiographique de 1654 (Dom Guy Oury, Edition 1976)

Correspondence (Dom Guy Oury) translated by Sr. M. St Dominic Kelly, o.s.u. Sligo, Ireland

Écrits spirituels et historiques (Dom Albert Jamet, Tome I et II)

Note : Most of the invocations of this novena are taken from the Litany of Marie de l’Incarnation composed by the Ursulines of France-Belgium-Spain on the occasion of her canonization.

1st Day April 21

SYNODALITY

“Synodality is an expression of the Church’s nature, her form, style and mission. . . The word *synod* means *JOURNEYING together*. A journey that reveals how God’s word, and the people who heed and put their faith in that word, journey together. The word of God journeys with us. . . Movement is the fruit of docility to the Holy Spirit, who directs this history, in which all have a part to play, never standing still.” *To the Faithful of the diocese of Rome, September 18, 2021*

Mary of the Incarnation JOURNEYS according to the rhythm of the Word of God.

“It is Canada that I have shown you. You have to go and build a House to Jesus and Mary. . . O my great God, everything is possible to you and I cannot do anything; please help me, I am ready.” *Relation 1654 Ch 41,*

Invocation: Saint Mary of the Incarnation, visited by God,
nourished by the Word,
filled with faith, hope and confidence,

Response: Intercede for us.

2nd Day April 22

ENCOUNTER (1)

“Encounter, listen, discern: three verbs of the Synod. . . In this synodal process, we are invited to become experts in the art of ENCOUNTER. . . First in taking time to encounter the Lord, time to devote to adoration, and to hearing what the Spirit wants to say to the Church”. *Homily of the Opening Mass of the Synod, October 10, 20.*

In an ENCOUNTER, God revealed Himself to Mary of the Incarnation as Charity:

“You call me your great God, your Master, your Lord, and you are right, it is what I am. But I am also Charity. LOVE is my name and I want you to call me so. Humans give me many names, but there is no name which is more pleasing to me and expresses better what I am for them”. *Dom Albert Jamet Tome I, Écrits spirituels et historiques, p. 156.*

Hymn of your choice

3rd Day, April 23

ENCOUNTER (2)

“We are also invited to promote *ENCOUNTER* among us, to take the time to look others in the eye and listen to what they have to say, to build rapport, to be sensitive to the questions of our sisters and brothers, to let ourselves be enriched by the variety of charisms, vocations and ministries.” *Homily of October 21, 2021.*

Mary of the Incarnation remains open to the ENCOUNTER which will mold her throughout her life in Canada.

“What we saw on arrival in this New World, to hear the praises of the Divine Majesty in four different languages, to see a number of Indians to be baptized, to hear the Indians themselves preaching the law of Jesus Christ to their compatriots, to see them thanking Heaven for having sent us to their country to instruct their daughters. . .made us forget our labors. . .There are almost infinite nations who do not know Jesus Christ, we have come with workers of the Gospel, we are all here for the same end.” *Letter 40, to one of her brothers.*

Invocation: Saint Mary of the Incarnation , zealous to announce the Gospel,
sharer of the Christian faith,
open to the Indian peoples,

Response: Intercede for us.

4th Day, April 24

LISTEN

“True encounter arises only from LISTENING. . .Participating in a Synod means placing ourselves on the same path as the Word made flesh. It means following in his footsteps, listening to his word along with the words of others. It means discovering with amazement that the Holy Spirit always surprises us, to suggest fresh paths and new ways of speaking.” *Homily of October 21, 2021*

Attentive, Mary of the Incarnation LISTENS and looks for means to respond to multiple needs.

“The Indians were in great numbers in those times and they crowded to our parlor, men and women. We were teaching them, discussing with them and for me, this was an indescribable consolation. “ *Dom Albert Jamet, Écrits spirituels et historiques, tome II, p. 251*

Invocation : Saint Mary of the Incarnation, charity for the poor,
tireless educator,
affable hostess,

Response: Intercede for us.

5th Day, April 25

DISCERN

“Encounter and listening are not ends in themselves, leaving everything just as it was before. On the contrary, whenever we enter into dialogue, we allow ourselves to be challenged, to advance on a journey. And in the end, we are no longer the same, we are changed.” *Homily of October 21, 2021*

Mary of the Incarnation’s DISCERNMENT after the fire of 1650.

“You will probably say, as many of our friends do, that it would be better for us to go back to France. . . The question was discussed by the leaders of this country. They have shown us the goodness of their hearts and the care with which they protect us. The conclusion was that we would not leave but would give God the service befitting our vocation”. *Letter 135, to her son.*

Invocations: Saint Mary of the Incarnation, seeker of God
surrendered to Love,
sustained in trials,

Response: Intercede for us.

6th Day, April 25

COMMUNION

“Journeying together brings true COMMUNION. Our Tradition is like a mass of dough; we can see it growing and in that growth is communion. Communion does not suppress differences. It is the wonder of Pentecost, where different languages are not obstacles. (Acts 2:8) “. *To the Faithful of the diocese of Rome, September 18, 2021*

Mary of the Incarnation rejoices at the growth of the Church in UNITY.

“If it is for His greater Glory He will let you see again this Church which cost you so much. At present everything is magnificent and it is a blessing of God to see the union that exists between our Bishop and the Jesuit Fathers. It seems that they and the priests in the seminary are but one. M. de Tracy who told what he thinks is delighted as he is with the impressiveness of the ceremonial of the Church and the obvious piety of those who serve it.” *Letter 229 to Father Poncet, Jesuit.*

Invocation: Saint Mary of the Incarnation, peacemaker,
marveling at God’s mercy,
Mother of the Church in Canada,

Response: Intercede for us.

7th Day, April 27

PARTICIPATION

“Baptism makes each one of us a full-fledged member of the Church community, so that all of us, without exclusion or discrimination, can say: “I am the Church!” The Church is truly your home! . . . In this Church which, guided by God’s word, advances amid the events of history, everyone has a part to play; no one is a mere extra. For this reason, each of you is also called to make his or her own contribution to the synodal journey”. *International Day of persons with disabilities, December 3, 2021.*

For Mary of the Incarnation, the Church is her HOME.

“My crosses got bigger this last year, because the affairs of the country are in such a deplorable condition. The end seems to have come, people were talking of giving up and sending to France for ships as a means of escape for those who hadn’t fallen into the power of the enemy. . . My cross was in the destruction of this Church and the loss of so many souls who would continue to live in blindness. I have suffered an interior martyrdom. . . I have offered myself to God as victim”. *Letter 151 to an Ursuline of Tours.*

Invocation: Saint Mary of the Incarnation: burning with divine Love,
missionary surrendered to God,
daughter of the Church,

Response: Intercede for us.

8th Day, April 28

MISSION

God’s universal saving will is offered to history, to all humanity, through the Incarnation of his Son, so that all men and women can become his children, brothers and sisters among themselves, thanks to the mediation of the Church . . . As Saint Paul VI said, the Church is a teacher of humanity, and today she aims at becoming a school of fraternity. In that same spirit, I wrote my encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*. . . In this time of pandemic, the Lord is guiding the Church’s mission as a sacrament of care. Our world has cried out and shown its vulnerability: our world needs care”. *To the Faithful of the diocese of Rome, September 18, 2021.*

Mary of the Incarnation is totally given to the “concerns of her divine Spouse”.

“All my life, I had a great love for the salvation of souls, but since what I said about the embracement of the Holy Virgin Mary, I felt in my soul a fire which was consuming myself for that. . . My body was in the Monastery but my spirit could not be confined. . . I was

accompanying the missionaries of the Gospel to whom I felt deeply united. . . I was praying the eternal Father to give me a voice strong enough to be heard to the ends of the world, to proclaim that my divine Spouse is worthy of reigning and be loved from all the hearts.” *Relation 1654, Chap. 38-39.*

Invocation: Saint Mary of the Incarnation, all eagerness for the Gospel,
apostle with a burning heart,
sustained by the Virgin Mary,

Response: Intercede for us.

9th Day, April 29

THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8) . . .Receive the power of the Holy Spirit to become witnesses. . .Being a synodal Church means being a Church that is the sacrament of Christ’s promise that the Spirit will always be with us. We show this by growing in our relationship with the Spirit and with the world to come.” *To the Faithful of the diocese of Rome, September 18, 2021.*

Mary of the Incarnation is witness to the active presence of the HOLY SPIRIT.

“Our new Christians live in the perfection of the early Church . . .It seems God wants the Gospel preached everywhere . . .We hear the Indians around us singing the praises of God in their language. Their daughters sing in Choir with us. . . This is the work of the Holy Spirit because of ourselves we are too weak to accomplish anything. Blessed is the author of the wonders we see.” *Letter 44 to one of her brothers.*

Invocation: Saint Mary of the Incarnation, joyful in praise,
led by the Spirit,
witness of the wonders of God,

Response: Intercede for us.

Noëlla Gaudreault, osu

Ursulines de l’Union canadienne