

In the Way of Mary
For Teenagers and Young Adults

3 - Commitment

Introduction

Close your eyes

Breath in your nose and out through your mouth.

Breath in your nose and out through your mouth.

Repeat 7 times...

Sign of the Cross

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Story

The young seminarians, including Jean-Claude Colin, aspired to establish a new Society dedicated to Mary, akin to the Society of Jesus. Despite skepticism from church authorities who questioned the need for another Religious order, they placed their trust in Mary, consecrating their mission on the altar and beginning their journey as the Society of Mary.

On July 23, 1816, twelve seminarians, led by Jean-Claude Colin and Jean-Claude Courveille, climbed to the chapel of Fourvière in Lyon, France, filled with excitement, faith, and a touch of nervousness. After long discussions about their vision—to serve the Church in Mary’s spirit of humility and love—they committed themselves to the Marist mission.



As part of the pledge, the names of the twelve were read aloud, symbolizing their dedication:

1. Jean-Claude Courveille
2. Jean-Claude Colin
3. Etienne Déclas
4. Gabriel-Claude Mayet
5. Jean-Baptiste Chavoin
6. Hippolyte Séon
7. Etienne Terret
8. François-Marie Rivat
9. Joseph-Marie Favier
10. Antoine Catherin
11. Barthélemy Jallon
12. Pierre Colin



Although Marcellin Champagnat missed this formal pledge at Fourvière, he remained fully committed to the Marist vision and later became one of its central figures.

This pledge was a powerful commitment to create a Society of Mary—a community of believers, like the eleven apostles and Mary at Pentecost. Their commitment affirmed a life living the Spirit of Mary in the world today as a family.

Silence

Sit still for 1 minute. What parts of this story stays with you?

Discuss

Any thoughts? *2-3 minutes*

Common Prayer

What do you want to thank God for?

What do you wish to place in God's hands?

How would you like God's guidance or support in your life?

Hail Mary

We pray with Mary at this time:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;

Blessed art thou among women,

and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

pray for us sinners,

now and at the hour of our death.

Amen.

Closing Prayer

Loving God, we thank You for the courage and faith of those young seminarians who, led by Jean-Claude Colin and Jean-Claude Courveille, climbed to Fourvière and dedicated their lives to Mary's mission. Despite the opposition and tensions they faced, You guided them onto a new path of following Your Son Jesus in the way of Mary. Inspire us also to follow Mary's example, becoming her hands, feet, and heart in the world today. May we, like these young seminarians, act with zeal and courage in a world that sometimes seems dark. May we work together to build a family and community in Mary's name. Amen.

Amen.

Sign of the Cross

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.