

223rd Birthday of the
Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Eucharistic Celebration



November 21, 2023

THE MEMORIAL OF THE PRESENTATION OF MARY

November 21

This feast began in the East, commemorating the day when the apocryphal Gospel (Protoevangelium of James) says that Our Lady was brought to the Temple at the age of three to be dedicated there until her marriage. In the Eastern liturgy, the story of the presentation in the temple is understood as an illustration of the truth that, throughout her life, Mary was totally dedicated to Christ and that this dedication was rooted in a contemplative faith. Thus the feast has special relevance to religious life. It was introduced at Rome in 1371, extended to the universal Church in 1472, briefly abolished by Pius V and reintroduced in 1585. In the Society it is “the original feast day,” since it was the feast day of the first consecration of Madeleine Sophie Barat, November 21, 1800. It was a date frequently chosen for subsequent renovations and vow ceremonies. Mother Barat wrote in her journal.

*A few days later, it was the feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin, a great feast in our Society, because it was the day on which the first sisters made their consecration in Paris, then in Amiens, and finally in our house in Grenoble; in a word, it was the day chosen to renew this consecration.*¹

The Ceremonial of 1827 mentions that on this day, aspirants renewed their vows, a custom unbroken until 1964 when aspirants made temporary vows and no longer made a renewal of devotion. It may still be celebrated as a day of special significance by the young professed.

¹ Original in french: *Quelques jours après, c'était la fête de la Présentation de la Sainte Vierge, grande fête dans notre Société, parce que c'est le jour que les premières ont fait leur consécration a Paris, puis à Amiens, enfin dans notre maison de Grenoble; en un mot, c'est le jour choisi pour renouveler cette consécration.* (p. 47)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Marie-Jeanne Elonga rscj (General Councillor)

Hello and welcome to you all,

It is with great joy that we welcome you to the Villa Lante chapel today, November 21, the 223rd birthday of the Society. We are gathered here in this sacred place to give thanks to God for the completion of the renovation work on this magnificent Villa Lante building. This space has witnessed so many stories and prayers over the years, and today it is reborn with new splendor to continue to be a place of spirituality, reflection and communion.

Our special thanks go to all the workers and those who directed them and all those behind the scenes who have contributed to Villa Lante's beautiful renovation, which maintains its character as a 400 year old building and yet is tasteful and provides a doorway to the future with all the up to date technology and eco-friendly systems.

We know that many of you are behind your screens, tuned in live to share this Eucharistic celebration together. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to our friend, H.Em. Cardinal Tagle, who has kindly agreed to celebrate this liturgy with us, and to Father Douglas, who has celebrated the Eucharist with us several times over the years.

Today, we mark the beginning of a significant spiritual journey by launching our Spiritual Itinerary, a process that will guide us towards the celebration of our General Chapter in 2024 and deepen us in our commitment to the essentials of our life and mission.

At the same time, we would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to God for the completion of the renovation work on the Villa Lante chapel, a place of peace and prayer that is so dear to us.

We invite you to join us in this act of faith, to follow this celebration with fervor and to let yourself be carried away by the spirituality of

this moment. May this day be blessed and filled with light, symbolizing a new spiritual beginning for each and every one of us.

Now as one Heart, let us celebrate together in thanksgiving...

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

Candles: Barbara Olejnik rscj (POL) and Mary Atukunda rscj (UGK)

Lectionary: Angela Galletto rscj (ITA)

Priests: H.Em. Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle
Father Douglas Marcouiller SJ

ENTRANCE SONG: Ode to Joy (Beethoven/Van Dyke)

Joyful, joyful, we adore You,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before You,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

All Your works with joy surround You,
Earth and heaven reflect Your rays,
Stars and angels sing around You,
Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Praising You eternally!

Always giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Loving Father, Christ our Brother,
Let Your light upon us shine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

GLORIA: Nkembo - Nancy Mabakuka rscj and Ruth Lema rscj (RDC-TCH)

Nkembo, nkembo, Nkembo, nkembo, aleluya	(2x)
Lelo na Nzame Tata, aleluya	(2x)
Lelo totondani Ye, aleluya	(2x)
Totondo Mwana wa Ye, aleluya	(2x)
Lokumu mpe nÉlimo, aleluya	(2x)

FIRST READING Acts 1:12–14

Angela Galletto rscj (ITA)

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Christine Mukoko rscj (RDC-TCH)

R : First on the way, Mary (Lefebvre/Guedon)

First on the way, Mary, you lead us
To risk our yes, To God's unforeseen events
And here is sown, In uncertain clay
Of our humanity, Jesus Christ, Son of God

Walk with us Mary
On our paths of faith
They are paths to God
They are paths to God

First on the way, In haste you set out
Prophet of the One, Who took shape in you
The word has arisen, You are its resonance
And you cross evils, To carry its voice.

Walk with us Mary
On the path of proclamation
They are paths to God
They are paths to God

First on the way, To follow to Golgotha
The son of your love, Whom all have condemned
You stand there, Close to the cross
To gather life, From his pierced heart

Walk with us Mary
On our paths of the cross
They are paths to God
They are paths to God

First on the way, With the Church on the march
From the beginning, You call the spirit
In this world today, Ensure our walk
May the body grow, Of your son Jesus Christ

Walk with us Mary
On the paths of this world
They are paths to God
They are paths to God

ALLELUIA – Taizé

Blessed is the Virgin Mary
who treasured the word of God,
and pondered it in her heart...

GOSPEL

Luke 11:27-28

Father Douglas SJ

While he was saying this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, 'Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you!' But he said, 'Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it!'

HOMILY

H.Em. Cardinal Tagle

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Anne Corry rscj (General Councilor) - English

We pray for the **Church**. May the fruits of the Synod nourish the life of the Church..... for our Church, we pray

Rosaria Liguori rscj (ITA) - Italian

We pray for **our blessed and broken world**. May there be peace and healing for all for our blessed and broken world, we pray

Gloria Díaz rscj (COL) - Spanish

We pray for **all of creation**, that the beauty of the earth might flourish for future generations.... for the earth and all creation, we pray

Gera Philips rscj (INS) - English

We pray for the **Society of the Sacred Heart**, may we continue to journey toward Chapter 2024 with courage and confidence for the Society, we pray

Rachel Guillien rscj (BFN) - French

We pray for **Vocations**, that young people all over the world will dare to listen to God's call to love and service. ...for young people, we pray

Cuca Maset (Mother House) - Spanish

We pray for **all those who share our life and mission**. May the Heart of Christ be the source from which they draw. For the Sacred Heart Family, we pray

OFFERTORY: Spirit seeking light and beauty

(Gaelic hymn/Janet Stuart, rscj)

Spirit seeking light and beauty,
Heart still longing for your rest
In your search for understanding,
Only thus can you be blest,
Through the vastness of creation,
Though your restless thought may roam,
God is all that you can long for,
God is all creation's home.

Taste and see God, feel and hear God,
Hope and grasp the unseen hand;
Though the darkness seem to hide you,
Faith and love can understand.
Loving Wisdom, guiding Spirit,
All our hearts are made anew.
Lead us through the land of shadows
'Til we come to rest in you.

OFFERTORY PROCESSION

Constitutions in the three languages: Mary Carmen rscj (ESP)

Spiritual Journey: Naty Chamorro rscj (CHI)

Uche Oluoha rscj (USC)

Building Tools: Simone Mazza (Prov. ITA & Mother House)

Rosaria Bruni (Villa Lante)

Bread and Wine: Ma. Teresa Devoto rscj (ITA)

Rita Crivelli rscj (BFN)

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

OUR FATHER (each in our own language)

SIGN OF PEACE: Dona Nobis Pacem

COMMUNION: Eat this bread (Jacques Berthier)

*Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in me and you will not thirst.*

I am the bread of life,
the true bread sent from the Father.

Your ancestors ate manna in the desert,
but this is the bread come down from heaven.

Eat his flesh and drink his blood,
and Christ will raise you up on the last day.

If you believe and eat this bread,
you will have eternal life.

THANK YOU

Barbara Dawson rscj (Superior General)

Thank you to each one of you who have joined us today in this liturgy of thanksgiving – to Sophie and her companions who took a great risk 223 years ago to begin a little venture among a few women who were passionate about making the love of God known and to each one of us who carry on this mission of love today.

Thank you, H.Em. Cardinal Tagle and Father Douglas for celebrating with us, not only today but many times over the years in this sacred space.

Thank you to the Italian province for your support of this project to renovate the Villa Lante for the sake of our mission.

Thank you to Mr. Rocchi and all the workers of Edilerica who have preserved this sacred space and renovated with great love and care the Villa Lante.

I would like to thank especially the core team who have worked hard to begin the new Formation Center for Religious and lay at the Villa Lante – to Meg, Florence, Stéphane, Rosaria, Carmine, and Mary and all the workers whose labors have made this beginning possible.

Today we as a community and family of the Sacred Heart begin a spiritual journey together. Those of you at home will receive a digital copy from your local province...a printed version will arrive soon. Let us continue to walk together, to live this journey as a global community, a sign that Love is stronger than death, that Hope is Alive and peace is possible.

I'd like to invite those of you here in the chapel to join us for some refreshments after the liturgy right outside the chapel. Thank you all for your presence.

BLESSING

FINAL SONG: Magnificat – (Taizé)



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