



## Marianist Moments

Memorial of Venerable Marie-Thérèse de Lamourous

September 14

~ Meeting aid ~



### Introduction

On September 14, we celebrate the Memorial of Venerable Marie-Thérèse de Lamourous. Marie-Thérèse was born in Barsac, near Bordeaux. She received a firm Christian education from her pious mother, making her earnest in her faith and love for Christ. During the French Revolution, she supported the underground Catholic Church. In 1795, she met and entrusted herself to the spiritual care of Father Chaminade, who would guide her until her death on September 14, 1836. Under Father Chaminade's guidance, Marie-Thérèse founded the *Miséricorde* in 1801 in Bordeaux. The mission of the Misericordia was to receive and reform penitent women. The work of *Miséricorde* under the leadership of Marie-Thérèse flourished and soon became known as the "marvel of the diocese." Marie-Thérèse's association with the Bordeaux Sodality became foundational to the establishment of Marianist Lay communities.

### Prayer

Adapted from the Marian and Marianist Feast days, marianist.com

† Eternal God, source of all holiness, we thank you for the gift of Marie-Thérèse de Lamourous. Her love of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the message of the Gospel inspires us today. We ask that we, like her, will be of service to all our brothers and sisters. We pray for the same faith and love with which she spread the Gospel and love for Christ and His Mother. We make this prayer through Jesus your Son. Amen.

### Scripture Reading

John 2: 1-12, RSVCE

On the third day there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; Jesus also was invited to the marriage, with his disciples. When the wine failed, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "O woman,

what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now six stone jars were standing there, for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the steward of the feast." So they took it. When the steward of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first; and when men have drunk freely, then the poor wine; but you have kept the good wine until now." This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory; and his disciples believed in him. After this he went down to Caper'na-um, with his mother and his brethren and his disciples; and there they stayed for a few days.

## Silent Introspection

Mlle de Lamourous, Joseph Stefanelli, SM, 211

**Contemplate the following excerpt from a letter that Marie-Thérèse wrote to her dear filles at *Miséricorde* when she went to Paris to obtain financial aid and support for them.**

*Ah, my dear children, how slowly time goes while I am away from you! The only thing that enables me to put up with my exile is, first of all, that God wills it. But what sweetens the bitterness my nature experiences is that it is for my dear children that I labor. Dear daughters of my heart, let us confide ourselves always and for everything to the goodness of the Providence of our God; may he do with us and ours whatever pleases him, for whatever pleases him will please us throughout all eternity. Let us therefore suffer our little inconveniences with submission and even with gratitude.*

## Group Sharing

Meditating on the life of Venerable Marie-Thérèse de Lamourous, recall and share an experience wherein you were challenged to do something difficult in order to be a witness to faith in Christ Jesus. How does Venerable Marie-Thérèse de Lamourous inspire your faith?



✠ May the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary. Amen.