



## Marianist Moments

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, February 11

World Day of the Sick

~ Meeting aid ~



### Introduction

On February 11, we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. We also celebrate the World Day of the Sick, instituted by Pope John Paul II in 1992, in honor of Our Lady of Lourdes. Our Lady of Lourdes appeared to Bernadette Soubirous at the Grotto of Massabielle on February 11, 1858. At the Grotto, the Virgin Mary revealed to Bernadette, "I am the Immaculate Conception." Lourdes became a place of miraculous favors and healings, both physical and spiritual, which have taken place through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Blessed Father Chaminade established Marian sodalities in honor of Mary's Immaculate Conception. The first Marianist Lay Sodality established by Father Chaminade was called "Congregation of the Immaculate Conception." In his letter to Blessed Adèle de Batz, Father Chaminade wrote that the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary would always be the patronal feast of the Lay Sodality.

### Prayer

Adapted from the Mass of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

† Eternal God, grant us protection so that we, who keep the memorial of the Immaculate Mother of God, may rise from our weaknesses through her intercession. We also pray for all members in our families and communities who are inflicted with various illnesses and ask the Blessed Virgin to intercede with Jesus her Son so that He may grant His healing and mercy upon them. We also pray for the peace of Christ to reign in the hearts and souls of all peoples and the world today. We make this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen.

### Scripture Reading

John 2: 1-11, 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.

## Silent Introspection

*Marian Writings, Vol 2, 337, William Joseph Chaminade*

**Contemplate the following text from the writings of Blessed Father Chaminade on the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Immaculate Conception:**

### *The Immaculate Conception*

*The very first among the prerogatives that were given to the Blessed Virgin was that of being immaculate in her conception. Vessel of predilection, she came into this world free from the stain of original sin. . .*

*She must have possessed this privilege from the first moment of her existence, and she must have possessed it fully without obstacle. . . No one, then can deny the purity of her conception.*



## Group Sharing

Let us reflect on the Blessed Virgin Mary's apparition at Lourdes as the Immaculate Conception, which inspires our faith in her miraculous intercession in healing our minds, bodies, and souls through her Son Jesus and his divine healing grace. Who is sick in our community? How are we called to reach out to them?



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