

**LIVING THE CHARISM:
MARGUERITE D'YOUVILLE TODAY**

The Summons John Bell (recite or sing)

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name.
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known?
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around?
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.



Reading 1: Marguerite's compassionate heart was visible in her very look, her smile, in every gesture! What was the secret that drew others so irresistibly to her? Her deep intimacy and communion with Jesus revealed to her the total confidence of the Son in his Father and the tenderness of God's mercy toward every human misery. Such was the charism given her by God. Marguerite was drawn to ponder lovingly the great goodness and tender compassion of God. The reflection of that goodness and compassion in her life was a source of joy and comfort to the poor.

Quiet reflection

The Lord hears the cry of the poor; blessed be the Lord (recite or sing)

I will bless the Lord at all times, with praise ever in my mouth
Let my soul glory in the Lord, who will hear the cry of the poor

Let the lowly hear and be glad; the Lord listens to their pleas
And to hearts broken, God is near, who will hear the cry of the poor

Every spirit crushed God will save; will be ransom for their lives;
Will be safe shelter for their fears, and will hear the cry of the poor.

Reading 2: The universal charity of Marguerite led her to seek eagerly and to seize joyfully every opportunity to help her neighbor. She had an uncommon diligence which made her find resources for her poor even in situations which seemed hopeless. Marguerite found inspiration in the example of Jesus and did not recoil from any kind of work provided that it was honest. For some years the word had spread: "Go to the Grey Nuns; they refuse nothing." In Marguerite's mind, the poor person was the presence of God and she intended to serve with all the resourcefulness of her gifts and the generosity of her being.

Quiet Reflection

The Summons John Bell (recite or sing)

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Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around?
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Reading 3: Imagine Marguerite as a young wife, weeping bitterly, certainly disappointed and disillusioned, probably angry, possibly resentful. Marguerite wanted a happy home life . . . She found that this experience was not what she hoped for. Now, imagine Marguerite forty years later, kneeling as the ruins of the General Hospital smolder, inviting her sisters and her sick and poor to join her in praising and thanking God. The God whom Marguerite called Father had transformed her – and it happened because Marguerite responded wholeheartedly to God's invitation to live her life on God's terms, not on her own. That meant living out progressively the graces of discipleship, of ministry, of stewardship and authority, of suffering and relinquishment. *(Sister Joanna Kerwin, GNSH. D'Youvillian Institute, Buffalo. July 3, 1997)*

Quiet reflection

Leader: Reflect now on the grace of our vocation to be daughters of St. Marguerite, woman of faith and trust in Divine Providence, woman with her heart in her hands, reaching out always to the poor and all those in need. How is God calling us Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart today?

Optional Sharing

Chapter Prayer

Heart of Jesus, as we engage in the Chapter 2023 process, teach us to be your compassionate love for our needy world and for each other. As daughters of St. Marguerite, we trust in your Provident care and ongoing revelation. Be with us and transform us according to Your will. Amen