

# CALLED to SERVICE – Louise de Marillac

**Call to Prayer:** Louise writes to Vincent: "... this is the opportune time to work for the establishment of the Confraternity of Charity ... Ladies who show the greatest desire for this holy work need to gather together, both from the nobility and from the lower class, [to] give themselves willingly to the poor ... I am telling you all this, Monsieur, so as to save time. These good women have been trying to encourage one another. We must strike while the iron is hot. ..."

(Spiritual Writings of Louise de Marillac, L.6, December 1636, page 13)



**ALL: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Hymn: "Take My Hands"** Sebastian Temple (all verses)



1. Take my hands and make them as your own, and
2. Take my hands, they speak now for my heart, and
3. Take my hands, I give them to you, Lord. Pre -



1. use them for your king-dom here on earth.
2. by their ac-tions they will show their love.
3. pare them for the ser-vice of your name.



1. Con - se - crate them to your care, a - noint them for your
2. Guard them on their dai - ly course, \_\_\_ be their strength and
3. O - pen them to hu - man need and by their love they'll

to Verses 2, 3



1. ser - vice where \_\_\_ you may need your gos - pel to be sown.
2. guid - ing force to ev - er serve the Trin - i - ty a - bove.
3. sow your seed so all may know the love and hope you gave.



Take my hands, take my hands, O Lord.

© 1967, OCP. All rights reserved.

**Antiphon: ALL: "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another ..."**

(1 Peter 4: 10 English Standard Version)

**Reader 1:** "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and God will repay her for this deed."

(PAUSE briefly.) (Proverbs 19: 17 ESV)

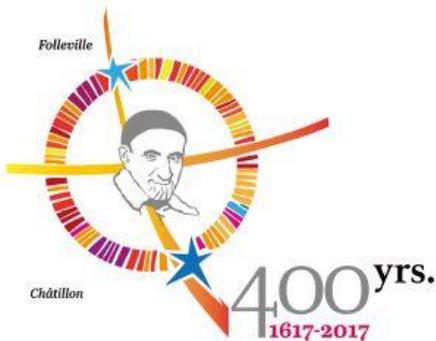
**Reader 2:** "Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart." (PAUSE) (1 Samuel 12: 24 ESV)

**Reader 3:** "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." (PAUSE) (Mark 9: 35 ESV)

**Reader 4:** "... through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in ...

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (PAUSE) (Galatians 5: 13-14 ESV)

**Antiphon: ALL: "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another ..."**



**Response: ALL: As I contemplate Christ and His love for me, I am led to greater service.**  
(adapted from Spiritual Writings of Louise de Marillac, A.31, "On Fidelity in the Service of Jesus," page 693)

**Personal Reflection and Sharing**

What gifts have I received from God that I am called to share with others?

How is God inviting me to give myself in service at home, as a Lady of Charity, this year?

**Intercessions: Leader:** Let us pray to God who sent Jesus and St. Louise as examples of service,

**ALL: O God, lead us to serve others.**

- + that we may follow Jesus by serving others in generosity and love, we pray...
- + that our prayers may benefit our service to persons living in poverty, we pray...
- + that we may be aware of others, ready to meet their expressed needs, we pray...
- + that our service may open others to receive Jesus' care and love, we pray...
- + that we may imitate St. Louise as models of faithful service, we pray ...

(Please, add your own prayers.)



**Our Father**

**Prayer: ALL: Loving God, the source and reward of love, through Your Son who became human, You gave a new commandment to love. May we follow the example of Saint Louise de Marillac by practicing Your love on earth. May we then obtain Your promise to your servants who are faithful. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.**

**Amen.**

*Liturgy of the Hours Proper of the Congregation of the Mission  
Prayer for March 15, feast of St. Louise de Marillac, page 28, adapted*

**Leader:** May God bless us, protect us and lead us to everlasting life. **ALL: Amen.**

**Leader:** St. Louise de Marillac, **ALL: pray for us.**

+++++

**Prayer Texts**

- 2 Chronicles 15: 7      "... your work ... your reward."
- Luke 6: 38              "Give ... given to you."
- Philippians 2: 1-4      "... look to others' interests rather than own."

