

# *A Bicentennial Prayer*

## **Brothers of the Sacred Heart**

*September 30, 2021*

"Chime forth, O joyful bells of our sacred sanctuaries.  
Enchant our ears with the pealing of your Alleluias."

**Come, Holy Spirit, in joyful cadence ring out the bells of our sanctuaries to gladden our anxious, striving hearts.**

From the spires of Saint Bruno, Fourvière, Monistrol, and Paradis let centennial bells renew in us swells of pride true enough to reach the thirty nations where you've given us a lasting home. May Alleluias cascade over the two centuries since you gathered us through the charismatic reverberating voice of Father André Coindre.

*Chapelle de  
Notre-Dame de Fourvière  
circa 1821*



**Come, Holy Spirit, strike the bells in the sanctuary of our heart where we treasure the thousands of brothers on whose shoulders we stand.**

Let our psalms and prayers magnify the eternal praise sung by the communion of saints who preceded us in profession. Rouse our gratitude for them. Harmonize our voices with their medley of the holiest of our hymns — Ecce quam bonum, Animés de l'Amour, O Coeur de mon Jesus. Let their perduring faith and apostolic heroism, like the books, plaques, and tributes of jubilee we've worded in their honor, never fade in us over the coming hundred years.

**Come, Holy Spirit, ring the routine bells in the sanctuaries of our mission to youth.**

Let the bell schedules and protective alarms in our schools become sacraments of the heartfelt vigilance of the Father, who can't take his eyes off his children. Amplify in our ears, above the noise of bad news, the cheers and cries of the young. Let the emotion ringing in their voice awaken in us the compassion of Jesus, especially toward those wounded ones who at their worst are "reckless rather than wicked, impetuous rather than incorrigible."

**Come, Holy Spirit, lean at will on the doorbells of our fraternal and apostolic communities.**

Help us believe as the prophets did thanks to your persistent prodding, that the word *Welcome* on our lips ultimately comes from you, as does any knocking that disturbs us. At our door, hold us, like the wise maidens of the Gospel, ready to greet a new guest and to dance with quickened step. Give our *Welcome* a musical ring. Through it, attract to us both wounded hearts and those desiring to walk as Brothers with us into a third century.

**Come, Holy Spirit, charge us with the happy fanfare of centennial bells. Like them, may our Institute echo and re-echo the word you want us to ring out in the earthly city. Reverberate our motto, our mission, and the hope you gave us to proclaim: *Ametur Cor Jesu!***

*Brother Bernard Couvillion, S.C.  
former Superior General*

*Opening Citation:*

From the centennial celebration of the French Western Province in the chapel of Chirac (6 September, 1921 *Annuaire* 15 p. 58).

