

# **7 on 7**

## **January, 2019**

St. Mutien-Marie Wiaux  
Born March 20, 1841  
Entered the novitiate April 7, 1856  
Died January 30, 1917  
Canonized December 10, 1989 by Pope John Paul II

### **Period One**

Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God.

Our prayers today focus on the life of St. Brother Mutien-Marie. A brother living in Belgium in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Brother Mutien-Marie was born Louis-Joseph Wiaux, the third of six children, in a small village in French-speaking Belgium where almost everyone was a devout practicing Catholic. His father was a blacksmith, while his mother helped to run a small cafe in part of the family home, where no rough language was allowed and where the evening of Belgian beer and card playing always concluded with the recitation of the rosary.

Redeemer God, you became one of us to bless our humanity and show us how to live. You lived with your parents and as scripture says, grew in wisdom and age. Like Brother Mutien-Marie may we recognize the sacrifices our parents make to provide for us.

**Reflection:** Can I show gratitude this day to those responsible for raising and providing for me? How do I show this gratitude and respect?

St. John Baptist De La Salle **Pray for us.**  
Live Jesus in our hearts **Forever.**

## **Period Two**

Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God.

Brother Mutien-Marie was a gentle, obedient boy who was marked by his piety, leading his classmates to pray at their local church at the end of the school day. After he finished elementary school, he worked as an apprentice in his father's blacksmith shop, where he found that he was both physically and temperamentally unfit for this career. The call to join a religious order, meanwhile, had begun to take root in his heart.

Emmanuel, God with us, You have given us gifts and talents. You have also given us the free will to use them helping to create Your Kingdom here on earth. Like Brother Mutien-Marie give us the wisdom to know what is best for us and others.

**Reflection:** What is one hope or dream I have for myself in life?

St. John Baptist De La Salle **Pray for us.**  
Live Jesus in our hearts **Forever.**

## **Period Three**

Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God.

The pastor of the town spoke to the boy about the Brothers of the Christian Schools (commonly called the Christian Brothers). He went to meet them and was convinced that it was the way of life he wanted. He traveled to the city of Namur, where he entered the Brothers' novitiate on 7 April 1856 where his fellow novices enjoyed his company due to his reliable sense of humor. At that time he was also given the name of Mutien-Marie ("Mutien" after the ancient Roman martyr Mucian).

Lord, Brother Mutien-Marie listened to the advice of others and tried what they suggested; then he opened his heart to the experience and found it to be true. Give me the courage to act on the advice of others and then listen to my heart.

**Reflection:** When is a time I have listened to the advice of others?

St. John Baptist De La Salle **Pray for us.**  
Live Jesus in our hearts **Forever.**

## **Period Four**

Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God.

On 8 September 1857 Mutien left the novitiate to teach at an elementary school the Brothers ran in Chimay. At first teaching was difficult for Mutien, and his students were known as disruptive and out of control. His performance as a teacher was judged to be so poor that his superiors considered expelling him from their Order, for the good name of the school. But in time, with the help of the Brother who headed the Fine Arts Department, Brother Mutien grew into an effective teacher, known for his patience and piety. He taught music and art, a saint of sensibility not intellect. In 1859 he was assigned to teach at a boarding school in the village of Mallone. He taught there for the next 58 years, until his death.

Loving God, you never leave us alone. You put people in our lives who see our goodness and gifts and accompany us so we do not forget.

**Reflection:** Can I take a moment to recognize someone in my life who has believed in me and supported me? Can I pray for them or find the time to thank them?

St. John Baptist De La Salle **Pray for us.**  
Live Jesus in our hearts **Forever.**

## **Period Five**

Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God.

He was known within the community for being available to help with any need which arose, whether it was comforting a homesick student or going to the train station to meet a traveler unfamiliar with the city. He also taught catechism to the children of the town at the local parish church. He was known to spend whatever time he could in prayer before the tabernacle or at the grotto of Our Lady on the school grounds.

Jesus, you were available to those who needed your help. St. Teresa of Avila tells us we are the hands of Christ. Can I follow the example of Brother Mutien-Marie and be available to help others?

**Reflection:** Reflect on your past week. When did you take the time to help someone?

St. John Baptist De La Salle **Pray for us.**  
Live Jesus in our hearts **Forever.**

## **Period Six**

Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God.

In November of 1916 Brother Mutien-Marie became noticeably ill and was sent to the house infirmary. On the following January, despite his weakness and the bitter cold, he was found praying at the communion rail before the Brothers' morning prayer. He was clearly failing and the Brother Superior suggested that he return to the infirmary. He never left it again, dying on January 30, 1917. He was buried two days later in the Brothers' plot in the town cemetery of Malonne.

Jesus, I don't always know how to pray. Sometimes my best prayer is "help me". I trust it is enough for you are always with me even when I forget.

**Reflection:** What is a prayer that is meaningful to you?

St. John Baptist De La Salle **Pray for us.**  
Live Jesus in our hearts **Forever.**

## **Period Seven**

Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God.

Brother Mutien-Marie's fame began to spread after his death and miracles began to be attributed to his intercession. He was noted for his humility and piety, which earned him the nickname of "the praying Brother." He was particularly fond of the rosary which he prayed constantly. Brother Mutien-Marie was beatified October 30, 1977 by Pope Paul VI and canonized an official saint of the Church on December 10, 1989 by Pope John Paul II. His relics may be venerated in Malonne at the shrine built in his honor after his canonization.

Lord, Brother Mutien-Marie was known for his humility and holiness. I wonder what I will be remembered for by others?

**Reflection:** What do I value and how do I want to be remembered?

St. John Baptist De La Salle **Pray for us.**  
Live Jesus in our hearts **Forever.**