

# The request for adhesion of the Shrine to the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

## **After the universal prayer:**

Call to the directors of the Prayer Network to step forward (Fr. Etienne Kern)

Presentation of the approach and the request for adhesion (Fr. Etienne Kern)

Hymn to the Holy Spirit: *Jesus, you who promised to send your Spirit*

Reception of the application and presentation of the letter of acceptance and the rosary blessed by Pope Francis (Fr. Frédéric Fornos SJ).

*P. Etienne asks Fr. Frédéric Fornos and the directors of the Prayer Network to come forward.*

Dear Father Frédéric Fornos,

I thank the Lord for the providential events and encounters that have led to the present request for the official adhesion of the Shrine of the Sacred Heart of Paray-le-Monial to the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, of which you are the international director. Your presence here today is a visible sign of the intimate link between the Prayer Network - which is still too little known here in France - and Paray.

In Paray, the Jesuits were given the *mission to show and make known the usefulness and value of devotion to the Sacred Heart, in communion with the Visitandines, so that all might benefit from it and receive it with respect and recognition*. In 1883, the Society of Jesus officially accepted and gratefully assumed this sweet mission entrusted to it by the Lord to practice, develop and spread devotion to His Divine Heart. Over the centuries, the Jesuits have been at the origin of many initiatives to fulfill this mission. One of them stands out for its scope and depth: the Apostleship of Prayer, which was born in 1844 on the initiative of Father François Gautrelet, S.J. to help young Jesuits become apostles of prayer from the time of their studies, offering all their actions in union with the Heart of Jesus for the proclamation of the Gospel and the salvation of the world.

In 2014, under the impetus of Pope Francis, the Apostleship of Prayer began a process of refoundation. It was renamed the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, a Pontifical Work in 2018 and a Vatican Foundation in 2020. This refoundation was accompanied by a renewal and updating of devotion to the Heart of Jesus and the implementation of a spiritual itinerary, *The Way of the Heart*.

Today, as we celebrate the opening of the Jubilee for the 350th anniversary of the Sacred Heart, our Shrine officially requests its adhesion to the Pope's Prayer Network. This membership is deeply consistent with the Shrine's own grace and will place it within the missionary dynamic of the Pope's

Prayer Network. Being part of the Prayer Network will unite our Shrine more closely to the prayer of the universal Church, in particular through a twofold commitment:

- to pray for the Pope's prayer intentions on the first Friday of each month. These monthly intentions are the fruit of the Pope's pastoral discernment for living the mission today, both in terms of the themes selected and their formulation. This commitment is fully consistent with our shrine, since it is with the apparitions of Paray-le-Monial that the first Friday of the month is associated with the Sacred Heart.

- to promote the *Way of the Heart*. This spiritual itinerary helps people to enter into a mission of compassion for the world in the school of the Heart of Jesus.

This adhesion puts our shrine in touch with this whole network of people committed to the Sacred Heart and the mission in the world. May this adhesion of the Shrine of Paray contribute to the redeployment of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network in France by making it better known and by attracting other adhesions, especially those of parishes and shrines consecrated to the Sacred Heart, both in France and throughout the world.

Let us now invoke the Holy Spirit, who flows from the Heart of Jesus, so that we may enter ever more deeply into the style of God recalled by Pope Francis: closeness, tenderness and compassion.

Fr. Etienne Kern,

Rector of the Shrine of the Sacred Heart of Paray-le-Monial

**Song to the Holy Spirit**

**Reception of the request by Fr. Frédéric Fornos**