

March 29

Blessed Jane Mary of Maille

Good Day, good people! May the Lord give you peace!

Jane was born into a noble family in Touraine. From an early age she showed a concern and compassion for the poor. At the behest of her grandfather, she married Baron de Silly. The Baron was called into battle and sadly died. She came into significant wealth at his death. Jane relinquished this life of privilege and embraced a life of poverty. She joined herself to the Franciscan Friars in Tours and lived in a small room attached to the chapel next to the friary. She lived out intensely the Corporal Works of Mercy. She lived a long and virtuous life, dying at the age of 82.

Even after having been raised in a wealthy family and marrying the Baron de Silly, Jane was never blinded by the ephemeral glory of riches. Today, we are often raised with the expectation that success equals wealth. Jane Mary can teach us that we are not our stock portfolio. We are not our luxury car. We are not our splendid wardrobe. We are sons and daughters of a loving God. This is our wealth. It is well for us to take an inventory of our values and align those with the Gospel. There are many pressures and intensions placed upon us that can estrange us from what is true, good and holy. Let us use this day and our meditations on Jane Mary to set ourselves on goodness.

Let us pray.

God, ever faithful, how easily we can be distracted by the lure of wealth and money. We can find ourselves bound up to this world by shackles that restrain us from our true selves. Help us to move through these false promises to you and your holy will. Give us courage and conviction to make the decisions that will truly liberate us. All this we ask of you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives with you and the Spirit, God forever and even. Amen.

Blessed Jane Mary of Maille is a friend of God and she is the company we welcome today.

