

SEVEN SISTERS Apostolate

Under the tri-patronage of
Madonna of the Grapes, St John Vianney and St Margaret Clitherow



Madonna of the Grapes – Mignard, Pierre (original in Louve ~ Paris)

This image and title of Our Lady is perhaps indicative of how intimately she holds not only Jesus, but those chosen *in persona Christi*, the priests – close to her heart and ever-encouraging the centrality of the Eucharistic life. She simply and quietly offers and encourages the grapes – Jesus embraces. Our Lady, though holding Jesus securely, does so tenderly and lightly. Jesus glances from beneath the security of her veil, where there is a shadow cast on His eyes, creating for Him a veil of sorts, as well. How close is Mary in His veiled Eucharistic presence! The window in the background gives a glimpse of a world of somewhat hazy skies, perhaps a world that summons the fullness of light offered and hoped for in the Eucharistic Presence and Eucharistic life. The gaze of Jesus is on us, deliberate. Mary maintains a posture of humility, peace and contemplation – all hallmarks of the life of a Seven Sister. Let us remain faithful in our tender, hidden, prayer offerings in the splendid Eucharistic Presence, holding our pastors near our hearts, but loosely so – for they are not ours to claim, but ours to support and ours to bring to Mary, their Mother and formator.

Madonna of the Grapes, pray for us and guide us in our prayers!