

Mary and Joseph present Jesus in the Temple

You are my rock and my fortress,
for the sake of your name lead and guide me. (Ps 31, 3)

By presenting Jesus in the Temple for the Rite of the ransoming of the first-born, Mary offers him to God, thus recognizing the Lord's total ownership of the Messiah. She divests herself of her maternal ownership of her Son.

By presenting their Son in this way, according to the Law, Mary and Joseph accomplish a Memorial of the Passover. They recall that the Lord spared his people, that he brought them out of the slavery of Egypt. This redeemed firstborn will therefore be, par excellence, a Living Sign of Salvation. (Max Thurian)

Office of the day

Word of God – Luke 2: 22-24; 34-35

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”, and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in

Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

Refrain or silence

Reflection

Simeon can die in peace, for he has seen the promised sign, which is salvation for all peoples and for Israel. He can now fully trust God, knowing that his life has meaning.

In the hymn he adds: "He is there for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and as a sign that will provoke contradiction". Christ brings down our small or great idols, our masks and our lies, he contradicts the quiet mediocrity, the false images of God. It is the resurrection of the nobility that is in every person, even the most lost and desperate. (Vatican News)

This event suggests an attitude of vigilance, of keeping our lamp lit and showing that there is always a possibility. This is what a consecrated person is called to do, but in the end, are not all of us consecrated in the eyes of God? Consecrated life, as a reflection of the light of Christ, is a sign that recalls the entrance of Mary into the Temple: the Virgin, the consecrated person par excellence, carried in her arms Light itself, the Word made flesh. (Antonella Palermo)

Saint Marie Rivier

Look at this divine Child; look at the gentle Lamb in the arms of his loving Mother, a Child radiant with light, burning with love, and vibrant with joy because he is about to offer himself to his Father for the salvation of the world. In this undertaking of Mary you have a model of the love with which you must carry Christ Jesus in your heart and in your behavior. (S.W. p. 56)

Rule of Life

The strength of our witness and the authenticity of our apostolic mission rest upon the truth of our communion with God. Our apostolate compels us from within and springs forth from our love for Christ. It is effective inasmuch as we surrender to him so that he may speak and act in us, for without him we can do nothing. C102

Canticle

Behold, Lord, I come to do your will.

Moment of prayer

R/ With what love I love your law: all day long I meditate on it!

Your word, Lord, stands in the heavens forever. Your faithfulness remains from age to age, the earth you established stands firm. To this day the world is sustained by

your decisions: all things serve you. If I did not take pleasure in your law, I would perish with misery. I will never forget your precepts: by them you give me life.

R/

Our Father

Final prayer

God, our Father, in the Holy Family in the Temple, we have a wonderful example of obedience to your holy will. May we in turn know how to seek, love and live your loving plan for us and for our Congregation. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

