

The Presentation of Mary in the Temple

*Lord, my heart is not proud, my eyes are not haughty;
I do not concern myself with great matters
or things too wonderful for me. (Ps 131)*

Office of the Presentation of Mary

Word of God – Eph 1: 17-20

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

May the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.

Refrain or silence

Reflection

Mary has become the model of self-giving for consecrated life. This is the feast of being present to the Presence of God.

This is the meaning of the call to the consecrated life: it is an initiative coming wholly from the Father, who asks those whom he has chosen to respond with complete and exclusive devotion. The experience of this gracious love of God is so deep and so powerful that the person called senses the need to respond by unconditionally dedicating his or her life to God, consecrating to him all things present and future, and placing them in his hands. (Vita Consecrata, 17)

Consecrated persons recognize their vocation as a gift and are deeply grateful to the Lord: the life that Jesus offers us is a story of love, a story of a life that wants to mingle with our life and take root in the soil of each person's heart. (Pope Francis)

Consecrated life is beautiful because it reveals the divine in the human being, it reveals that the human being is capable of God, because of the Spirit that has been poured into our hearts who purifies us, strengthens us, and heals us. Let us not misunderstand beauty! It is not formal perfection that will make our communities beautiful and prophetic, but the witness of consecrated persons transfigured by their encounter with Christ and seeking, even in the fragility of their humanity, to "remain in his love". (Michelina Tenace, *Vies consacrées*, 2015)

Saint Marie Rivier

How precious and honored this feast should be, especially for us, my dear Daughters, whom God has chosen and favored in a special way by calling us to his service under the patronage of Mary. ... Mary called us to consecrate ourselves to her service and, like her, to work for the glory of her Son in this Temple which she had just chosen for herself. ... We are indeed the daughters of Mary, called like her to serve God in the Temple which she herself has opened for us. (S.W. p. 43 -45)

Rule of Life

Temple most pure of the divinity, Mary is for us a locus of prayer. Filled with grace by the Father, one with Jesus in heart and mind, she turns us towards God and draws upon us the Spirit who helps us in our weakness and intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. C76

Canticle

Rejoice Mary, beloved of God!

Moment of prayer

- With Mary, and like her, we come to you, Most Holy Father, to present to you our Congregation, our spiritual family, all those who are close to us.

R/ Receive our prayer, Lord.

- With Mary, and like her, may our hearts be entirely dedicated to you our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

R/ Receive our prayer, Lord.

- With Mary and like her, may we become more and more disciples who know how to listen, disciples of prayer.

R/ Receive our prayer, Lord.

Our Father

Final prayer

Lord God, you call us to live an intimate relationship with you and you send us into the world to witness to your universal love; may we be faithful to live our vocation every day, we ask you through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**