



The Joyful Mysteries. The Mysteries of Jesus' Childhood

The Annunciation, Visitation, Nativity, Presentation in the Temple, Hidden Life in Nazareth...

"In the Joyful Mysteries, we find a bit of all this: the joy of the family, maternity, being a parent, friendship and mutual help. These joys that sin has not totally erased, the newly born Christ assumed them in himself and sanctified them. He accomplished this through Mary. Thus, it is through her that we can make the joys of man ours: simple and humble in themselves, but in Mary and Jesus, they become grand and holy." (St John Paul II)

In each of her appearances, Mary asked several times for the Rosary to be said every day and for sinners to be prayed for. The rosary therefore is an expression of praise to Mary. Let us try to share the feelings that moved her when she experienced, in profound union with her son, the joyful mysteries of salvation: the Annunciation, Visitation, Nativity, Presentation in the Temple, Hidden Life in Nazareth...

"Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord is with you." It is God himself who is announced at the Annunciation to Mary. He is already there. God enters into man's history by becoming incarnate. Mary with her "fiat" opens the way for us and invites us to follow Jesus, to meditate on his word and life through his "mysteries." Follow Christ with Mary, discover him, pray to him, meditate on the events of his life from the Annunciation to the Cross and the glorification of Mary.

The Annunciation is a promise that God fulfils and that transforms Mary with a deep joy. The mystery of the Creator with his servant. A marvellous mystery that becomes incarnate and transforms the world of men.

After the amazement of this Annunciation, Mary must have felt great peace and joy within her. She said yes to God. God, who came to us through love. By letting God guide our life, like Mary, we follow the path of happiness...we already experience this in our heart when we live each present moment in accordance with God.

Mary is filled with joy and we share that joy.

"The Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us." (Jn. 1:14)

Jean-Michel Vuillermoz

SPIRITUAL LETTER – The Joyful Mysteries

Everything begins with the angel Gabriel's words to the Virgin Mary, "Hail Mary!" We are with her in this unique moment in the history of the world when God was made man. Before, God spoke to man through events, gestures and prophets. Now he has become flesh in a woman. God will speak our language and live our life. The joy of the **Annunciation to Mary**, to a young girl from the people God had chosen four thousand years before, to represent the entire human race in its thousand year wait for salvation and peace. *First joyful mystery*: God is present on earth.

Mary cannot keep such happiness to herself. Her cousin Elisabeth is expecting a baby, "She was in her sixth month." Elisabeth is the sign of humanity so profoundly waiting for life... that finally erupts in her! "Nothing is impossible for God." **Visitation**: the child in Mary's womb caused the child in Elisabeth's to leap with joy. *Second joyful mystery*: the apostles' joy, who awaken the faith around them.

O joy! **The Birth of Jesus**. Creation rejoices through the ox and donkey! Humanity too rejoices through the shepherds and magi, who came from all corners of the earth. Finally, the heavens too rejoice: the angels sang their joy to see God inhabit humanity. Only our faith can proclaim the incarnation, that God is made man. What is there that is more extraordinary in the history of men than God inhabiting and belonging to our humanity and our humanity to God? *Third joyful mystery*: a time of adoration.

But joy is an earthly joy, a joy still awaiting fulfilment. **Jesus is presented in the Temple of Jerusalem**. Moved by the Holy Spirit, Simeon welcomes the Son of God in the Temple, the Father's house. A theophany even greater than those of Moses or Elijah on Mount Horeb, but infinitely more discreet, in the midst of simple pilgrims. Simeon, in the Spirit, sings the advent of the saviour of "all peoples", but also announces his martyrdom at the foot of the Cross to Mary. *Fourth joyful mystery*: where already the shadow of the Cross and the raising of many hovers.

The joy of believing. **Jesus' parents find their child in the Temple**. They did not understand that their son had to "be in his Father's house." Who can understand God's mysteries? The aim is not to understand everything in our life, but to believe that God is there! Faith seeks to understand and the more we understand the more our faith moves forward towards other lights. *Fifth joy mystery*: "Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." She, who believed, accompanies us on the path of our life.

The joyful mysteries are to be recited at all times! Above all, in our darkest hours, in order to make hope spring forth. No matter what happens, the Lord is there. Our painters are right to show the Virgin Mary carrying the child, Jesus in her arms with a serene and peaceful expression on her face! And yet, from high up on her painting, did she not see and hear? She communicates her peace to us. On the sunny days too, the joyful mysteries multiply our joy and open us up to the world! May the Holy Spirit, who is with the Virgin Mary, be with us so that the Lord's life may be fruitful in all of us!

Father Paul-Dominique Marcovits, o.p., Spiritual Counsellor to the Intercessors

ST JOHN PAUL II'S LETTER ON THE ROSARY

On October 16th, 2002, St John Paul II promulgated an apostolic letter on the Rosary entitled, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*.

"The Rosary is my favourite prayer. It is a marvellous prayer. Marvellous in its simplicity and profundity."

"Praying with Rosary is contemplating Christ with Mary."

Praying with the Rosary is a contemplative prayer. Its recitation ought to be slow and calm, so that the person who is praying remembers with faith and love the mysteries of Christ's life, death and resurrection.

In order to enter into this contemplation that configures the disciple to his Lord, the Rosary invites us to entrust ourselves to the maternal action of the Virgin Mary. By accompanying Mary in the house in Nazareth, we learn from her to look at her Son and to live with him. Mary also teaches us to beg her Son and through her maternal intercession, she supports the prayer that Christ and the Spirit gave rise to in our heart.

The Rosary is a path in Christian prayer that contemplates Christ's face through the prism of several mysteries of his life.

St John Paul II invited families to rediscover the Rosary for their moment of prayer. He encouraged parents to entrust their children's path of growth in this prayer. He even suggested that it could be amended in order to make it accessible to children themselves and teenagers.

"BLESSED IS SHE WHO BELIEVED"

Indeed, at the Annunciation Mary entrusted herself to God completely, with the "full submission of intellect and will," manifesting "the obedience of faith" to him who spoke to her through his messenger. She responded, therefore, with all her human and feminine "I," and this response of faith included both perfect cooperation with "the grace of God that precedes and assists" and perfect openness to the action of the Holy Spirit, who "constantly brings faith to completion by his gifts."

The word of the living God, announced to Mary by the angel, referred to her: "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son" (Lk. 1:31). By accepting this announcement, Mary was to become the "Mother of the Lord," and the divine mystery of the Incarnation was to be accomplished in her: "The Father of mercies willed that the consent of the predestined Mother should precede the Incarnation." And Mary gives this consent, after she has heard everything the messenger has to say. She says: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" (Lk. 1:38). This fiat of Mary-"let it be to me"-was decisive, on the human level, for the accomplishment of the divine mystery. There is a complete harmony with the words of the Son, who, according to the Letter to the Hebrews, says to the

Father as he comes into the world: "Sacrifices and offering you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me.... Lo, I have come to do your will, O God" (Heb. 10:5-7). The mystery of the Incarnation was accomplished when Mary uttered her fiat: "Let it be to me according to your word," which made possible, as far as it depended upon her in the divine plan, the granting of her Son's desire.

Mary uttered this fiat in faith. In faith she entrusted herself to God without reserve and "devoted herself totally as the handmaid of the Lord to the person and work of her Son."

St John Paul II, *Redemptoris Mater*, 1987, paragraph 13

MARY'S CANTICLE (Lk. 1: 46-55)

"My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.
His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.
He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.
He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.
He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors."

THIRSTY FOR LOVE

All of us seek happiness... So where can we find this happiness that we all aspire to?

When facing the wonders like those found in nature: a grandiose sunset... a radiant frank gaze, a dazzling smile, when faced with all these notes that form a splendid symphony, we feel ourselves filled with an intense joy. This joy is not linked to material factors, that are destined to disappear. No... It is the result of a discovery. Infinity must exist somewhere; it is possible to feel within one's self a true fullness of happiness; it is possible to truly be happy... Will we know how to discover the wonders that nature offers us? Will we know how to discover Beauty? Will we know how to gradually discover the Author of it all in it: the One who is

INFINITY? Fulfilment? Perfect Joy? The One who cannot deceive us, the one whose Love is so great that he respects our freedom, even when we refuse that which is Beautiful? ...

“What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?” But St Paul answers himself immediately, *“Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!”* (Rom. 7:24-25)

Yes, let us plunge into Christ’s heart, because he alone can bring us true Happiness. He knows our misery, our weaknesses, but a long time ago, He took responsibility for them all. On the Cross, He saved us...through his body given up for us...

**Reflections of a group of students and a priest,
*Aimer corps et âme, (Loving body and soul), Ed. O.E.I.L***

JOY

“Joy is prayer.

Joy is strength.

Joy is love.

Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls.

God loves a cheerful giver.

The best way to show our gratitude to God and the people is to accept everything with joy.

Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget the joy of the Risen Christ.

We all long for Heaven where God is, but we have it in our power to be in Heaven with him right now to be happy with him at this very moment.

But being happy with him now means:

loving as he loves

helping as he helps;

giving as he gives

serving as he serves

rescuing as he rescues

being with him 24 hours a day

touching him in his distressing disguise in the poor and suffering.”

Mother Teresa

YOUR FACE, MY LIGHT

“I will never forget that woman who had cancer and who knew it... right up until the end, she wanted to pay tribute to God’s Beauty.

It is in this spirit that we must enter into the Mystery of the roses, the Holy Rosary. It is in this spirit that we must enter into the Garden of the mystic Rose, who is Our Lady... Because it is in this way that God is obvious in the most undeniable way, when also, wherever we go, life starts to flower, hope grows and joy shines.

God, if he is truly the Life of our life, if he is the great secret of Love that we carry at the centre of ourselves, if he is the respiration of our freedom, if truly he crowns us with his Grace, then this must be obvious, our youth must be before us, we must triumph over death, we must be the brotherly welcome of a friendship without borders for every-one.

Yes, that is the mystic realism of the Gospel. It truly means making the earth, Heaven; time, Eternity; and the visible world, the diaphanous Sacrament of the invisible world.

Thus, truly, life achieves its dimensions and we can love it passionately, because in and through life, we carry God and we communicate His Joy, by singing as is the norm when we love, as St Augustine says, "*Cantare amantis est*": He who loves sings."

**Maurice Zundel, *Ton visage, ma lumière: 90 sermons inédits*,
Ed. Mame/Desclée**

GENERAL INTENTION

Lord, give us a happy heart, open to your Word. Let us become people who are joyful and filled with the Spirit, capable of carrying out our commitment as a Christian and intercessor according to your will. Make us humble and faithful servants, who listen to their brothers in difficulty and trouble. May our prayers of intercession never cease to open us to You in trust and hope.

INDIVIDUAL INTENTION

We pray to you, Lord, for your Church, for our Pope Francis, for families and couples who become commit to each other. May peace and joy be a preoccupation of each and every one in our world that is so afflicted by so many tensions, poverty and difficulties...



LES INTERCESSEURS

VEILLEZ ET PRIEZ.

Website :

<http://equipes-notre-dame.com/en/communication-and-liaison/pray-with-the-intercessors>

Mail : prayers@teams-transatlantic.net

49 rue de la Glacière

75013 PARIS

(33) 1 43 31 96 21