

# WE COMMUNICATE

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## Provincial's Message

I am pleased that our SMC team has gifted us with a new issue of "WE communicate" on the occasion of the feast of the Presentation of Our Lady. It is appropriate that at this moment we reflect on the new encyclical of Pope Francis "Fratelli tutti" which calls forth for a change of heart. He writes, "the signs of the times clearly show that human fraternity and care of creation form the sole way toward integral development and peace." He chose the words of Saint Francis of Assisi to initiate a reflection on something he cares about very deeply: namely, fraternity and social friendship.



Sr Deepa Moonjely OP



Pope Francis exhorts us not to be silent spectators but to respond creatively to reduce the social injustices that are widening the gap between the 'have' and the 'have not's. It is a personal invitation to look into our own attitudes to see how we treat one another in community and mission and bring about the necessary changes. He also invites us to break down the walls that we have erected out of greed, jealousy, arrogance, ambition and revenge and embrace the path of social friendship. He is genuinely concerned about the poor and the migrants. His clarion call is addressed to all to be good Samaritans of social equality and justice, without prejudice to the nationality, faith or colour of the other. Today solidarity is the road map to healthy living in the post-pandemic world and to live this

solidarity, our pope has proposed three pillars: saying no to selfishness, spreading hope, and taking action.

Let us look at how did Mary, our mother practiced these attitudes and virtues in her

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life? It is worth considering what Mary did, just after she told Joseph that she was pregnant. In spite of the grief and uncertainty that she was experiencing, she traversed more than 70 miles of dangerous terrain in miserable and dangerous conditions in order to help her elderly cousin, Elizabeth who also was pregnant. Unselfish as she was, she did not allow her own serious situation to prohibit her from placing herself in selfless service of others.

By standing at the foot of the cross, Mary revealed the strength and integrity of her heart, the undivided love for God and humanity, her unwavering hope and faithfulness to the mission. Our blessed mother stood at the foot of the cross, uniting her heart to the suffering heart of Jesus, her son. As she accepted John as her son, she also embraced the whole humanity as her family along with Jesus. All became her brothers and sisters; all became her sons and daughters.

The Virgin Mary, whose presentation we celebrate on November 21, is the 'mother of hope'. Pope Francis in his audience on August 15, 2020 said, "let us invoke her intercession for all the situations in the world that are most in need of hope: hope for peace, for justice, hope for a dignified life." May Mary, Mother of the Presentation guide and lead us in saying 'no to selfishness, spreading hope, and taking action.'

**Wish you all a very  
Happy Feast of Presentation**

Sr. Deepa Moojely OP



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Social Means of Communication Team  
wish you all a Very Happy Feast of  
Presentation of Blessed Virgin Mary in  
the Temple on 21st November, 2020



## EDITORIAL



Blessed Virgin Mary was solemnly offered to God in the Temple in her infancy. The tender soul of Mary was then adorned with the most precious graces, an object of astonishment and praise to the angels, and of the highest complacency to the adorable Trinity. The Father looking upon her as His beloved daughter, the Son as one chosen and prepared to become His mother, and the Holy Spirit as His darling spouse. The consecration of Mary to God presented all the conditions of the most perfect sacrifice: it was prompt, generous, joyous, unregretted, without reservation. How agreeable it must have been to God! Mary's first presentation to God was an offering most acceptable in His sight. May our consecration of ourselves to God be made under Her patronage, assisted by Her powerful intercession and united with Her ineffable merits to be most acceptable gift to God.

Marie Poussepin placed her community under Mary's protection. We know that St. John Paul II beatified Marie Poussepin on November 20, 1994 in Rome, Italy on the eve of the feast of Presentation of Mary in the Temple. 25 years of beatification is truly a year of Grace. The Dominican Sisters of Charity of the Presentation, in fidelity to the Project of our Foundress, work in 36 countries in four continents at the service of the Church. Marie Poussepin traced a path... others, after her, heirs of her spirit and Charism, strive to respond to the calls of our time, to the urgency of evangelization, maintaining the original vision and priority for the poor through a great diversity of presence.

Covid 19 Pandemic is a reality we all live through. The current pandemic has placed the whole world at a standstill with nations going into lockdown to stall the virus's relentless march. Still, there is no specific data on when situations will stabilize. Rom.8:28 remind us that for those who love God, all things work together unto good. What is certain is that the people are learning valuable lessons through this global crisis, and life after COVID is sure to change for the better. Aristotle, the celebrated philosopher, taught, "it is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light". Thus, this is perhaps the right time to look ahead at expected improvements in the post COVID world. So, it is really relevant to sit back and introspect on our religious life and its challenges to live our call to a genuine religious life in fidelity and love. I recall from *Ratio Formationis* that, 'in her mystery of the Presentation, a mystery of listening and contemplation, of acceptance and gift, which radically consecrates her to the Lord with a "Yes" which is renewed day after day, Mary is for us a "model of fidelity and of gift" (C14), of a life totally fulfilled in love. Mary who walked in faith is present in the birth and growth of the religious vocation of each one of us, deeply associating herself to its fulfilment in the Holy Spirit. (pg. 46)

This issue of We Communicate come to you with a lot of reflection and sharing from our sisters on the Presentation of Mary in the Temple and various aspects of our consecrated life. We also have the joy of listening to few of our sisters, their experience of the 'Year of Grace.' I take this opportunity to thank all the sisters who came forward with their reflections and experiences from life to inspire others. I thank Sr. Maria Escayola and the council for declaring year 2020 as the year of Grace of beatification and calling forth each one of the sisters to enter deeply into the spirituality and charism of Blessed Marie Poussepin. I also would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Sr. Deepa Moonjely and the council for the creative ways of calling forth our sisters to live our consecrated life as a gift in charity, truthfulness and in hope.

Sr. Daisy Rose Peenikaparamban OP

**“From His fullness we have all received grace upon grace.....” Jn 1:16**



The year of grace of the beatification of our mother foundress, had been a call for me to renew myself with the great charism of Bl. Marie Poussepin. We were receiving many reflections on the life of Marie Poussepin from different sources; province, congregation especially from the year of grace commission. We were benefitting it in form of study, recollection talk, reflections, prayer and the creative presentation of the life of Marie Poussepin from the web site of the congregation, writings of our sisters etc. all these helped me to know Marie Poussepin more deeply and love her more dearly. Jn 1:16 “From His fullness we have all received grace upon grace.....” is a reality in my life, during this year of grace.

I would like to share with you about the various ways I experienced God’s grace during this year of grace. I had been preparing individually and as a community taking concrete measures to imitate the life of our mother foundress. Marie Poussepin’s life was Christo-Centric. All her actions were done in order to please God. Christ was the centre of her life. At this stage of my life, I see a greater desire to spend more time in prayer. When I am in His presence, I experience a lot of peace and serenity and calm which nobody else can give me except the Lord. So I enjoy being in front of the Lord. The effect of the pandemic challenged me to move along with God’s plan, not according to my will. I consciously made an effort to surrender my life into His hands. By doing this I realized, I have no control over my life. He is the one controlling my life. The providential care of the Lord is very visible during this time of lockdown. We lacked nothing, the Lord provides us everything. Prayer has become my main ministry. I see the need to pray for the entire world. I spent at least one hour daily for the needs of the Province.

**Marie Poussepin has become more active alive in my life. I came to know her more deeply and love her dearly.**

The love of God moved Bl. Marie Poussepin to leave her comfort zone in order to respond to the needs of the suffering people in Sainville. Leaving Dourdan and going to Sainville is a reality in my life. I have to let go of my comforts and see the common good. There are moments the Lord challenges me to move out for the good.



The family traits of simplicity, poverty and love of work have become part of my life. I find joy in doing little things. I can’t do many things as before but the Lord gives me opportunities to give myself. Sometimes it is caring for the domestic animals and plants. I am so grateful to the Lord that he gives me opportunities to help the formees. For Marie Poussepin, all works are important and sacred. Everything morning I wait to see what

the Lord asks me today and I am ready to do. Covid 19 was a challenging moment to love the vow of poverty. I am aware how many people lost their job and nothing to eat in their homes. One day, I wanted to take a good cup of coffee, and almost I was going to make the coffee, I saw on the counter left over coffee from morning. I said to myself, I will heat up and take this, many are starving out side. I made a choice to be satisfied with what I have.



The community preparation for the year of grace was an enriching experience. We discussed how to celebrate the year of grace. We decided to read reflectively the rule of Sainville daily, before evening prayer, the material from the commission for year of grace was read and discussed at the table so that the formees also were able to know more about Marie Poussepin. Visiting the web page of the congregation as a community also helped to know how the whole congregation is preparing for this great year.

Mare Pousspin loved the poor and she always tried to bring them up, to mark her love for the poor, we decided to give one of our goats to a poor Hindu lady. When we were giving the goat the ladies eyes were filled because she was very much touched by our gesture. Another event was to start 'Dominican Lay associates of the presentation.' We formed this group on the feast day. We had the feast day mass in the community in the presence of Parish priest and the parishers after which we shared the fellowship meal with them. It was a joyful experience to share to share the life of Marie Poussepin in Kannada to the parishners. We also had made a video attributing to Marie Poussepin. All these experiences of preparation, participation and celebration made a great impact in my life. This year of grace had been an enriching one than any other years. Marie Poussepin has become more active alive in my life. I came to know her more deeply and love her dearly.

Thanks to Sr. Maria Escayola and her council, Sr. Deepa Moonjely and her council, the commission for the year of grace, for providing various opportunities to celebrate this year of grace more meaningfully. Thank you for this golden opportunity.

Sr. Ann Padinjakkara O P



## Year of Grace... Cherished Memories and Growth towards Holiness

325 years ago, Blessed Marie Poussepin recognized the unique call from the Lord to set apart herself to continue the work of Jesus. Marie Poussepin trusted in the Providence of God all throughout her life. In this Year of Grace 2020, we got plenty of opportunities to know her better and increase our love and devotion to her. Her rock like faith, trust in the Providence of God, generosity and merciful compassion towards the suffering humanity forced her to live behind all her comforts and dedicate her life for the works of charity for the poor and needy. Marie Poussepin literally practiced the first commandment of the Lord "Love your Lord with all your heart and with all your mind and with all your soul and Love your neighbor as yourself".

Marie Poussepin lived through the terrible times of war, epidemic and poverty. Today's reality also is the same. The year of Grace accompanied with the crisis of COVID 19 with restricted movements. Lot of time at home, distorted plans and uncertainties of the future. This special year gave us the opportunity to walk in her path following her spirituality and Charism rooted in the love of God and love of neighbor in deep humility and creativity. Though keeping the social distancing, we have become closer to each other through different Mass media and teleconference tools. We got a lot of time to study, reflect, pray and journey through difficult time finding freedom and detachment.



At this time of pandemic as a community we could do many things. Study of different themes of Marie Poussepin and the questionnaire was answered from the General government. In this connection, the Charismatic plan was made. According to the decision of the province we participated in

the chain rosary for the cure of those who are affected by COVID 19 and the complete eradication of the virus from the whole world. Daily adoration, Mercy rosary and fasting once a week are continuing for the same cause.

As a result of COVID 19, many were suffering even without having their daily meals. In solidarity with the poor and the sick, we as a community made sacrifice and donated some money for their food. With the help of the benefactors, food kits were distributed to the very needy. We also contributed some money to our parish for feeding the poor. In order to protect the people from the spreading of the virus with the help of Trivandrum social service society (TSSS), we made mask and distributed to the people of our parish and the neighboring parish. We also gave awareness to the people about the importance of washing the hands frequently and the usage of sanitizer and wearing mask and the importance of social distancing.

Our community is together for everything- for the spiritual activities, for the care of common home (for doing kitchen garden, flower garden etc...). we also gave job opportunities for the poor women to make fishing net, training for tailoring, candle and rosary making. We learned to reduce daily expenses and increased the sharing qualities. We found few benefactors to help the very poor. During this time we prepared some children to receive first Holy Communion and few girls for marriage preparation.

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In this year of grace, I got a lot of time to reflect on my personal life in connection with our Mother Foundress. Ever since I joined the congregation, I was impressed by her character, lifestyle and the missionary activities. Her great love for the sick poor, her interest to educate the youth specially the poor girls were an inspiration for me. My great surprise about her life was that though she could have enjoyed her life with her wealth and facilities, she left everything behind and moved from her prosperous town to a poor village in Sainville to be one with the poor and the needy and to serve them. Lately I could realize that when someone has the great trust and confidence in the Lord and give ear to listen the promptings of the spirit, all other things are secondary. She literally followed the words of Jesus "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me". (LK 9: 23)

My two months of experience in France became alive. I believe that it was a privileged moments to be in the same place where she lived and worked. As soon as I entered in that house, I was thrilled with joy as it was a deep desire for myself to be there. I could feel her presence everywhere in the house. Since the miraculous healing took place for my brother, Bro. Alphonse MMB my trust and confidence in her increased. I used to seek the intercession of Blessed Marie Poussepin for different intentions. Prayer to our foundress became a habit for me. At the end of the prayer, instead of saying pray for us I used to tell her pray for this intention or for the person I pray for. I firmly believe that today or tomorrow her perfect holiness will be recognized by the church and soon she will be elevated to sainthood.

I thank Almighty God for His countless blessings upon us. I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to Sr. Maria Escayola and her counsellors, Sr. Deepa and her team for providing and enriching us with materials for study and reflection and the retreat and conferences for spiritual nourishment at this time of COVID 19. Truly it is an year of grace.

Sr. Jessy Peedikayil.O.P



## My experience of the Year of Grace



In the circular letter of January 15, 2020, Sr. Marie Escayola, our superior General, invited us to celebrate this 25th year of the beatification of Blessed Marie Poussepin as “A year of Thanksgiving to the Lord for the beatification of Marie Poussepin” with the aim to strengthen the knowledge of our Charism and to re-read the spirituality of Marie Poussepin today. The whole Congregation has been fully absorbed in living this year of Grace the best possible way through study, reflection, sharing and prayer in order to deepen the knowledge of the Charism and to understand her spirituality for today. The commission for the celebration of this Jubilee year enriched us with creative suggestions to make this year meaningful.

The articles on different themes which we received helped me to look at Marie Poussepin from different angles. Reading and reflecting on these articles I was inspired to live more committed life. During this year of Grace we had many other opportunities to study, reflect and pray about the virtues and qualities of Marie Poussepin and to imitate them. Besides the articles which gave us a lot of insights into the spirituality of Marie Poussepin, preparation of the Magazine, letters from Sr. Maria Escayola and Sr. Deepa, recollection talks, reconciliation service, and preparation prayer for the feast of Blessed Marie Poussepin helped me to enter more deeply into her spirituality. The days of lockdown gave us much time to spend in reading and studying and prayer. As it coincided with the year of grace, it was particularly meaningful as we spent a lot of time in prayer and reflected all these documents. It was a precious time for me to look into my life in the light of the life of Marie Poussepin who was rooted in faith. She had an intimate relationship with the Eucharistic Lord. She was united with him in a single offering for the salvation of the world. She passed on her Charism to her daughters. And this is what Marie Poussepin asking from us to enjoy the company of

She added a ‘spoonful of love’ in all her activities; also she shared that ‘spoonful of love,’ with those around her. Today she comes before me asking me as her daughter to do the same.

Jesus by being devoted to him to continue to live the graces of this year and to walk in the footsteps of Marie Poussepin all through our lives.

During this year of grace we were able to make Marie Poussepin known, through our charitable services to the hungry and poor who were suffering the consequences of the pandemic. We could share our love, care, concern and express our compassion for our brothers and sisters who lacked even the necessities of life. Following the example of Bl. Marie Poussepin who visited the poor of her time and gave them food and medicine, we were able to give food to those who were hungry and help many other ways that we could do. If she was with us today she would have been the first one to go out to help them out. We are the extension of her charity through our services.

In a special way during this year of grace of the jubilee of beatification of Bl. Marie Poussepin, as her daughter, I am privileged to experience Lord’s blessing on me. She added a ‘spoonful of love’ in all her activi-



ties; also she shared that 'spoonful of love,' with those around her. Today she comes before me asking me as her daughter to do the same.

When we look back to this year of grace we are grateful to her as she has obtained God's out-pouring love for us and she asks from us to add the 'spoonful love' to our brothers and sisters around us. We have been asking, through the intercession of Blessed Marie Poussepin for graces to be able to practice her virtues in our day to day life. We will be able to live by the grace of God who gives us each day the grace to live and imitate the virtues of Bl. Marie Poussepin.

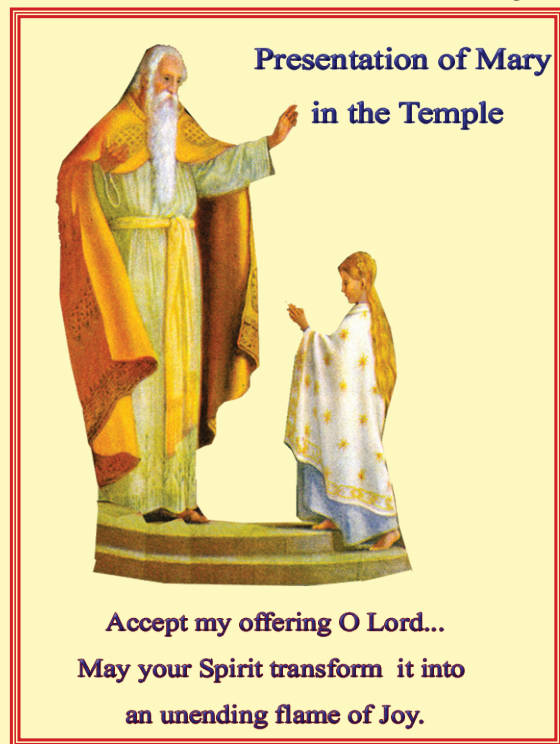
During this year of Grace we have come to know more about Blessed Marie Poussepin and have been inspired to make her virtues and qualities our own by daily practice. I pray that Blessed Marie Poussepin will be counted among the great saints of the Church in the near future.

By Sr. Asrita Tete

## Mary in Communion with the Trinity

The personality of Mary is so rich, her spirituality so profound and virtues so perfect that anyone can find in Mary an ideal to follow. The relationship between the Holy Trinity and Mary is alluded to in Scripture. The Annunciation in the Gospel of Luke shows that the Trinity is involved in the conception and birth of Jesus Christ. The Angel Gabriel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most-High [the Father] will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born [from you] will be called holy, the Son of God." (Luke 1:35). In this article, we will expound Mary's communion with the Trinity.

**Mary — "The Excellent Masterpiece of the Most-High":** Mary's soul is the most beautiful in God's creation. Saint Louis de Montfort, a great apostle of Mary, says that Mary is "the excellent masterpiece of the Most-High" since the Father imparted to Mary His fruitfulness in order to enable her to bring forth His only Son into the world. She was shaped and designed as the masterpiece of the One who planned the sunsets, placed the mountains, bounded the seas and jeweled the skies. She was prepared for her great office as Mother of God and was preserved at the first moment of her conception from any touch of sin. Her birth was a dawning hope for humankind.



According to tradition, Mary was presented in the temple at the age of three, and she lived there among the virgins dedicated to work in the temple until she was of marriageable age. Mary was God's, wholly and entirely. The Father had plans for Mary and willed that Mary be the spiritual mother who brings forth His adopted children through her nurturing influence until the end of time. Mary was in perfect accord with God's plans and agreed to His will as she said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" (Lk 1:38). She fulfilled the purpose of the Creator. Mary is the temple, beautiful and pure but without Christ she is incomplete.

**Mary — "The Admirable Mother of the Son":** Mary's office as Mother of God was fixed from all eternity. Mary is "the admirable Mother of the Son." The Son became incarnate through Mary and in Mary. As a result, the Son gives Himself to His spiritual brothers and sisters through His mother. Through his birth from Mary the Son is "taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men" humbling



Himself and “becoming obedient unto death ... on a cross.” (Philippians 2:7-8) The child that is born of Mary is called holy, not only because He is consecrated to God but also because He is God in the flesh. Mary shielded Jesus on the frightening flight into Egypt, guarded Him during exile, guided His first step and watched Him grow out of baby hood into boyhood and young manhood. She knew that her path was marked by suffering.

Mary tasted the depths of Calvary as she accompanied her son Jesus on the way of the Cross and stood beneath the Cross and saw her Son dying. She was a woman of love, courage and faith. She mothered the Church, consoled the apostles in their trials and strengthened the first Christians. Mary’s longing for her Son was so intense that God spared her body from the penalty of corruption and reunited her in heaven with Him. Mary cooperated in the redemption work of Jesus from Cana to the Cross by her free consent. Without Christ, Mary would be as poor as any other creature, but with Him she is immensely rich in grace.

### **Mary – “The Faithful Spouse of the Holy Spirit”:**

Mary is “the faithful spouse of the Holy Spirit” since the Spirit formed Jesus Christ within Mary’s womb, and remained with her in raising the child Jesus. It follows, then, that the Holy Spirit wills to fashion Jesus in His chosen ones and unite them to God by giving His gifts in and through Mary. Mary was the ark or the temple of the Spirit. “The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most-High will overshadow you,” this recalls the pillar of fire and the pillar of cloud as a sign of God’s presence or of Him overshadowing the camp (Ex 13:22; 19:16). She was the most sublime example of a Spirit-filled person. As Luke says when the Holy Spirit came upon her, she hastened to Elizabeth and sang the Magnificat, through which she expressed all her joy. St. Bonaventure describes, “The Holy Spirit came upon her like a divine fire, inflaming her soul and sanctifying her flesh in perfect purity...” Mary received the Holy Spirit in the upper room along with the apostles. She is the figure of the spiritual and charismatic Church.

O Mother,  
may your love for God be ours!  
May we have the Spirit to magnify the Lord!  
May we bear witness to Christ by our  
lives!

**Dominican Religious – Communion with the Trinity:** Mary completely submitted to the will of God. She so totally gave herself that she became the spouse of the Holy Spirit, giving birth to God the Son. If we as Dominican sisters want to follow Mary in being in communion with the Trinity, then we must all imitate her example by surrendering ourselves to the will of the Father, being united to the Spirit and sharing in the mission of Jesus. It involves a personal relationship. Blessed Marie Poussepin was deeply united to the Trinity. Her prayer is echoed everyday by her daughters (Prayer of Bl. Marie Poussepin) as we express our praise and glory to the Trinity. The Dominican spirituality is rooted in the Trinitarian love. St. Dominic bowed deeply whenever he recited “Glory be.” Mary is the sanctuary and the repose of the Holy Trinity. If we love Mary, we will imitate her and seriously make her our guide on our pilgrimage to transformation. We dare to ask our Mother to intercede for us...

Sr Anula Irvin Suguna Joseph OP

## Journeying with Mother Mary



God chose Mary as the Mother of his only Son Jesus; the saviour. God had to choose the most beautiful, the sweetest, the gentlest and most loving, the most pure, the most holy and the perfect one to be the mother of His Son Jesus. The Presentation of the Virgin Mary commemorates a visit by the three year old Mary to the Temple in Jerusalem, Where she was dedicated to the service of God and left to be raised as a consecrated virgin. She spent her life in the temple reading the word of God, singing psalms, pondering upon it, keeping it in her heart along with all the temple duties as a servant.

The annunciation is the event of Mary's life which most clearly reveals and highlights the perfect discernment and obedience that the Holy Spirit worked in her. She was a young virgin, simple and poor from the small village of Nazareth. There was nothing extraordinary in her life. What was extraordinary was what God did in her life. She was preserved from sin. Hence the angel said "Hail full of grace, the Lord is with you." Throughout her tender years Mary must have kept her heart attuned to the promptings of the Spirit dwelling within her. Her Obedience is echoed in her memorable words "Let it be done to me according to your word." Thus these were the formation of Mary to be the co-redeemer of the humanity.

Formation is a continuous process with attitudes of trust, reconciliation, mercy and acceptance of differences. It has helped me to grow in Faith and liberty to deepen my personal vocation, convictions, to discern God's will through my formators and superiors.

Formation is the integral part of every individual. It is a continuous process with attitudes of trust, reconciliation, mercy and acceptance of differences. It has helped me to grow in Faith and liberty to deepen my personal vocation, convictions, to discern God's will through my formators and superiors. It has strengthened me to grow in awareness of myself as a person, to assume responsibilities in each stages of my life, in difficult moments and to live my consecration joyfully. I have experienced accompaniment of my sisters in all situations of life with the attitude of acceptance, encouragement, listening, mercy and dialogue. Formation has enabled me to Love Jesus and experience guidance and protection of Mary our heavenly mother in my life.

Mary is a model of Faith. In her the gift of faith was always active. It was the expression of her faith which made her rush to the aid of her cousin Elizabeth as she believed the word of the angel. It was her faith in her son that made her turn to the servants at Cana to tell them to do whatever Jesus told them to do. It was faith that sustained her all through the anxious days of the long journey to Bethlehem, the rejection by the people, through the long dark night of exile in Egypt and the hidden life at Nazareth. She never questioned God's ways but accepted all with faith. Mary is our model, when we are tempted to ask "why". She is our model when we are faced with trying circumstances and unbearable pains of life. When I find myself in times of trouble, Mother Mary comes to me speaking words of wisdom "Let it be" and in my hours of darkness she stands in front of me. Let us entrust to Mother Mary our lives that we all may follow her example and attain that holiness for which we are called.

Sr. Punam Lakra O.P

## The Preparation of Mary in the Temple



Mary was presented in the Temple at around the age of three in fulfilment of the vow made by her parents, St. Ann and St. Joachim. Have we ever thought of what she might have done in the Temple from the age of three on? St. John Eudes states "God inspired in the heart of the pure virgin Mary his own intense love for humanity". Yes it was a time for Mary to learn to love God and to prepare herself for her role as mother of God in the

future. She was a smiling, hardworking young girl, always immersed in God and pleasant to everyone at her side. Mary had a long preparation in the Temple to be the mother of God. This preparation led her to trust in God and surrender herself totally to Him and ponder on the Words of God.

What I am today is the result of my formation. God prepares me like He formed Mary in the temple. To be rooted in Christ and to live for Him alone is an experience of being alone with Him. I learned that the world can give me happiness only for a moment but only God can give me the real joy.

Whomever God called He gives the grace to be molded and transformed in His likeness as Mary was transformed in the Temple. My formation was a



time for me to prepare myself to live the consecrated life with better understanding. My aspirancy, Postulancy and Novitiate were a time of preparation for my life at present as a consecrated person. As St. John Paul II says “From Mary we learn to surrender to God’s will in all things; from her we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone, that nothing is impossible with God “It was during my formation I learned to surrender myself to God, to have faith in Him that nothing is impossible for Him and to show my faith in deeds.



I am reminded of a story, I have heard. There was a teenage boy near St. Peter’s house and he noticed that Peter’s mother –in –law was sick. Seeing this, he made a request to Jesus to heal her. Jesus asked him what the boy could give Him for this healing. After Jesus’s every day preaching people used to distribute snacks, sweet cakes and other eatables. The boy’s favorite was the sweet cake. He replied Jesus that he could abstain from eating this cake. Then the healing took place. When the day turned to be night, they passed the snacks. While the tray reached the boy, as usual he took one piece very happily. Suddenly, he remembered his promise and put it back. The boy realized that the cake could give him happiness only for a moment but his sacrifice gave him satisfaction and an inner joy. This was much more than the happiness of having the cake. It is true that in order to gain some thing, we need to give away something.

In the life of Mary we see that to be the mother of God, she had a long preparation especially by spending her entire childhood in the Temple. She gave away her playfulness and the worldly enjoyments to inherit the heavenly joy. What I am today is the result of my formation. God prepares me like He formed Mary in the temple. To be rooted in Christ and to live for Him alone is an experience of being alone with Him. I learned that the world can give me happiness only for a moment but only God can give me the real joy. Saying ‘no’ to the worldly life and following Christ lead me to be always with Him. It also taught me to face the challenges of consecrated life that there will not be always the bed of Roses but that there will be thorns too. But the promise of Christ is enough for me when I am on the bed of thorns. He will be there to give me strength. As we see in Lk 1:37, “nothing is impossible with God”.

Sr. Laly O P

## Presentation of Mary in the Temple



Presenting something to somebody is a sign of love. What we give and How we give depends on the relationship that we have with the receiver the more we love a person the more we like to give...to the extent of self-giving. Jesus is the best example. He loves his heavenly Father and each one of us, so as an expression of his love he gives himself to his heavenly Father and to each one of us.

On 21st November we celebrate the feast of the presentation of our Lady. Mary was presented in the temple when she was about three years old but it was not ordinary presentation. It was a wonderful and grace filled moment when Saint Joachim and Ann presented their daughter Mary in the temple. She herself became a greater temple than any temple made by mere human hands. We too are temple of God and sanctified in order that we might enjoy and share in God’s saving world.

We no longer belong to ourselves but to God. Let us say with Mary “I am the Handmaid of the Lord let it be to me according to your word. “ Let me present myself to God fully and totally. I am called and chosen by God.

Mary was “full of grace “(LK 1:28) her heart was ready for a complete self- giving to God and humankind

for the love of God. Just as the Blessed Virgin Mary was prepared to give the gift of her life back to God in the temple by meditating on the word of God and participation in the temple liturgy, we are prepared in the same manner in a most excellent way to give our gift of our life back to God by the word of God and by participation in the sacred liturgy of the Church especially the most Holy Eucharist. The feast of presentation of Mary reminds us that we belong to God, as she was completely dedicated in soul and body to the Lord. When Angel Gabriel came with the annunciation knowing fully well the responsibilities entrusted to be the mother of God and the suffering she had to go through, Mary said "I am the Handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your word." She made a full conscious commitment then onwards and she knew that she does not belong to herself but to God. On the feast of presentation we renew our religious vows. We present oneself to God. God loves us unconditionally and we in return give oneself fully and totally in service. We no longer belong to ourselves but to God. Let us say with Mary "I am the Handmaid of the Lord let it be to me according to your word." "Let me present myself to God fully and totally and I am called and chosen by God.



Sr. Kochuthresia Myalil O.P

## Presentation of Mary in the Temple and Consecrated life



Here never has been, and there never will be, any offering of a pure creature greater and more perfect than that which Mary made to God, being yet only a child of three years, when she presented herself in the temple to offer him, not spices, nor calves, nor talents of gold, but her whole self as a perfect holocaust, consecrating herself as a perpetual victim in his honor. Well

did she understand the voice of God, which even then called her to dedicate herself wholly to his love, with these words: Arise, make haste, my love, and come: (Song of Songs 2:10). And therefore her Lord would have her from her country, her parents, and everything, to attend to nothing but to love and please him: "Hearken, oh daughter, and see and incline thy ear; and forget thy people and thy father's house" (Psalm 45:11). And she at once obeyed promptly the divine voice. We consider how acceptable to God was this offering which Mary made of herself, as she presented herself promptly and entirely to him; promptly without delay; entirely without reserve...

Mary offered herself, as she presented herself promptly and entirely to him; promptly without delay; entirely without reserve...

"Mary offered herself to God promptly. From the first moment when this heavenly infant was sanctified in the womb of her mother (which was at the first moment of her Immaculate Conception), she received the perfect use of reason, that she might from thenceforth begin to merit, as the Doctors universally agree; and one of them, Father Suarez, says, that as the most perfect mode by which God sanctifies a soul is its sanctification by its own merits, as St. Thomas teaches, so it is to be believed that the blessed Virgin has been thus sanctified. And if this privilege was granted to the angels and to Adam, as the angelic Doctor says, much more should we believe that it was granted to the divine mother, on whom we cannot doubt that God, having deigned to make her, his mother, From her, he received his human nature, hence before all others she must have obtained from Christ the fullness of grace.





“Thus, from the beginning of her life, Mary knew God, and knew him so well, And when the immaculate infant understood afterwards that her holy parents, Joachim and Anna, had promised to God, even by a vow that if he should grant them a child, it should be consecrated to his service in the temple, When Mary knew of this vow, she wished solemnly to offer and consecrate herself to God, by presenting herself in the temple, as St. Epiphanius says, that when she was hardly three years old she was presented in the temple, at an age when children have the greatest desire for the assistance of their parents, and need it the most. She was even the first to entreat her parents earnestly that they would take her to the temple, to fulfill their promise; and her holy mother, Anna, as St. Gregory says, did not delay to bring her there, and offer her to God. Joachim and Anna, generously sacrificing to God what was dearest to them on earth, set out from Nazareth, carrying by turns, in their arms, their beloved daughter.

Consecrated life is a state of life in the Catholic Church lived by believers who wish to follow Jesus Christ in an exacting way. According to the catechism of the Catholic Church, it “is characterized by the public profession of the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience, in a stable state of life by church. the code of canon law defines it as “ a stable form of living by which the faithful ,following Christ more closely under the action of the Holy Spirit ,are totally dedicated to God who is loved most of all , so that having been dedicated by new and special title to his honor, to the building up of the church and to the salvation of the world ,they strive for the perfection of charity in the service of the kingdom of God and having been an outstanding sign in the church, foretell the heavenly glory’.

What makes the consecrated life a more exacting of Christian living is the public religious vows or other sacred bonds whereby the consecrated persons commit themselves, for the love of God, to observe as binding the evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty and obedience from Gospel. From the very beginning of the church there were men and women who set out to follow Christ with the greater liberty and to imitate Him more closely, by practising the evangelical counsels. They led lives of dedication to God, each in his own way. Consecrated life lived either institutes or individually. We are able to realize that each of us has come for Jesus, to give our whole hearts and our whole lives to Him. We receive with joy the immeasurable blessings of each other and belonging to something far greater than ourselves and we all experience as we are in one family that is God’s family.

*Sr. Shanti Toppo OP*

## Life Rooted in Mission for the Love of God



Mary is the supreme model of Christian living. She followed her Son with devotion and perfection as we see in her virtues. Many of these characteristics are important for teachers in particular as we follow Christ by living our vocation as educators. Mary is an excellent model for teachers because her virtues are virtues teachers need. Some of these are obvious: charity, patience, wisdom. Mary always pondered the word of God and acted upon it and as the first disciple of Jesus, she followed Him wherever He went, listened to him teaching the people and she spread the message of God. She is model for me for my spiritual & as well as missionary life. According to the tradition Joachim and Anne, the parents of Mary, offered their daughter to God in the temple of Jerusalem when she was a child. During those days as per the Law of Moses, presenting

the child in the temple was a means of purification. Her parents who introduced her to God on the day of her presentation in the temple. The theological meaning of the feast of presentation is, all her beauty and grace, in both soul and body was for God. Mary was dedicated to God from the beginning of her life. She grew with her parents learned all the necessary things from her parents. They formed her with all the virtues along with they provided the environment conducive to her nature. As we know that she was born without original sin, but all her movement were along the path of sanctifying herself to attain the holiness of God. Parents themselves became a role model and taught her to respect, to forgive, accept correction, service minded attitude, faithful to the Lord, and endurance etc.

“Reading without repentance, Knowledge without devotion, Research without the impulse of wonder, Prudence without the ability to surrender to joy, Action divorced from religion, Learning surrendered from love, Intelligence without humility, Study unstained by divine grace, Thought without the wisdom, Are not inspired by God”



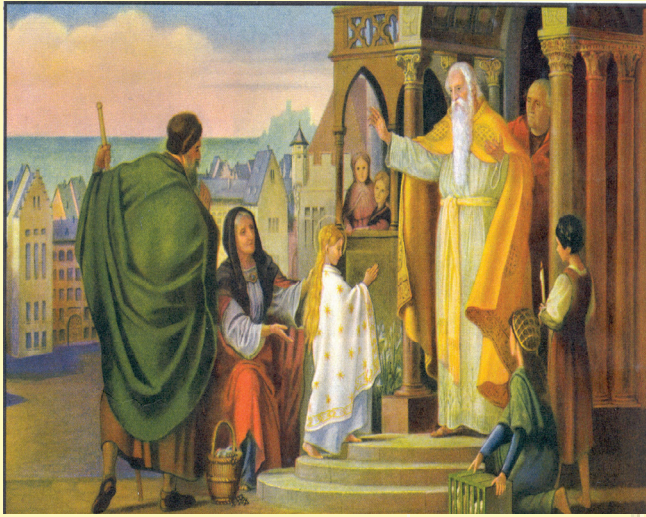
**Lord, teach me your statutes.**  
Psalm.119:68

Mary was full of grace (LK1:28), her heart was ready for the complete self-giving to God and humanity for the love of God. Her holiness always attracted many people and they received graces from her. She had deep knowledge about the Holy Scriptures and her life was oriented on that direction. Her interior richness was poured forth in the beautiful hymn of Magnificat when she heard the greeting of her cousin Elizabeth.

Mary pondered not only the words of angles, but the whole event that has taken place. She contemplated and tried to understand the meaning of those words and actions which made her truly the mother of the savior who played an important

role for the salvific plan of God. She lived an ordinary life in an extra ordinary way, pondering her relationship with Joseph, listening to her son and all that awaited in her life. Mary was literally the first tabernacle where she carried Jesus in her womb. Having chosen by God to carry Jesus in her womb she was formed by God to respond to the call of God. The message of God's saving action for the creation is fulfilled in the heart of Mary.

From all eternity God has thought of me and assigned to me a specific role. He allowed me to be born at right time, right place, providing me with all the gifts and talents which is necessary to fulfill my role. My greatness depends on how I respond and stand before the eyes of God. Word of God becomes part and parcel of my life, daily reflected, studied and also implementing in my life and communicating with others by words & deeds. The knowledge that I acquired in my life which turned out to be the power within myself to think, to plan and implement for good of others. Surrendering everything at the feet of the lord, gives me the courage to face the consequences of my daily task which turn out as a grace of God to gaze at the crucified Jesus. Experience is the best teacher, in that line of experience of God and the vision for the mission which I merge continuously seeking the support of the lord, pondering over the events, looking at the pros& cones which allows me to go into the depth and see what is best & suitable for the growth of the young minds and





make them persons with character & values oriented life.

Knowledge is power, every individual person desire to improve their knowledge in different fields. Acquiring knowledge depends on the interest as well as the willingness to work towards it. My experience has taught me that knowing is powerful and one has to look for ways and means to achieve it. The Sources of my learning are from my schooling, knowledge from the books, articles and efficient peoples talk or classes etc. Everything remains in my memory very vividly and has become the building block of my abilities. Without any doubt, the things that I have read and learned gives to my soul, spiritual nourishment and it helped me to grow as a person with values & convictions. Keep on thinking, reflecting and making the ideas to become powerful force in the depth of my life. The books, I have read repeatedly, the thoughts I ponder constantly and the things I am trying to learn, became part of my life and my growth. Once I sow a seed, it begins to grow into a real plant. I need to have an idea first and actualize it into reality. It all depends on the type of seed that I sow in my mind; they will determine the melody of my life. I just look at Bamboo tree it is so strong and will sprout anywhere without much care.

“Reading without repentance, Knowledge without devotion, Research without the impulse of wonder, Prudence without the ability to surrender to joy, Action divorced from religion, Learning surrendered from love, Intelligence without humility, Study unstained by divine grace, Thought without the wisdom, Are not inspired by God”

Sr. Elsy Vadakkumpadan O P



## Obedience of Mother Mary ..... Obedience in my Consecrated life

Tradition says that Mary was presented in the temple by her parents when she was three years of old. They offered her for the service of the Lord in the temple. When the appointed time came she was chosen for a greater mission to be the mother of Jesus. This offering to the Lord gave her the faith and trust to accompany her son from birth to death. What a great and inspiring example to follow and ponder in life.

Mary said “The Almighty has done great things for me, holy is His name.” The obedience of Mary was not a bed of roses for her, searching for a place to give birth, running to Egypt to save Jesus from the wrath of Herod, loosing and finding Jesus in the temple and so on....In all these she found God’s will and pondered the meaning of all this in her heart. She recalled the words of Simeon when they presented Jesus in the temple 40 days after his birth. Mary had to let go many things and joys of her life to fulfill God’s will. This is a reality in the life of everyone who has responded to the call of God.

Mother Mary has accompanied me many a times in my life journey and I am always grateful to her for leading me to the true Light Jesus.

I recall certain challenges in my obedience as I look back to these past half century of my consecrated life. Seven years after I returned from USA the first time, as a young sister after my studies, to Kuttikad full of enthusiasm to do something to help the poor young women in our social center as it was my first obedience. The moment I returned from home I was called to Sr. Patricia’s office and she told me tomorrow on wards you will be in charge of our nursery in the parish since the replacement was the need of the time. So I said to myself Oh God well begun.....the challenge of my obedience. After my B Ed. as a fully pledged teacher I was given a post in the Corporation management of the diocese of Irinjalakuda and worked in 3 leave vacancies in three different parish schools during that one year. Thanks

to late Bishop Joseph Kundukulam who requested to give me a post in the Corporation management even though I did not belong to Thrissur diocese.

The recommendations from the school, where I worked led me to get a permanent appointment in Kuttikad High School. Yet the Lord allowed me to let go that desire and joy of a teacher. Sr. Dorothy Ruggeiro, then regional Superior had something else in her plan for me. She asked me to resign the teacher's post to take up the initial formation of the young women entering to our congregation. Was it an easy mission to accept...but obedience is better than sacrifice.



**The  
Love of God  
that  
drew your heart  
to the cross  
is the love  
that will  
produce  
obedience  
to it!**

Today when I look back I see those whom I helped in that stage of formation has become Superiors, Provincials, Councilors in Provincial and General Level. God's ways are beyond my imagination though I felt unworthy to do that mission but was happy to meet the needs of the time in the Region of India. When late Bishop James Pazhayatil came to know about the resignation of the appointment he told me "Josephine, you are making a mistake." But it was not my choice, the challenge of my obedience. Everyone knows that it is not easy to get a permanent job so fast and in Kuttikad so close to our community....

How can I forget my second time assignment to USA Province after years of teaching in our missions in Kerala, Karnataka, MP and UP. I had no specific mission in Dighton but to help to get ready the house for the upcoming Provincial Chapter. Many times I asked the Lord in those moments Why Lord did you call me here for this from an active mission in Education?...?...? My obedience was challenged again. Then I was send to Texas to teach. I have beautiful memories of those years... Thanks to Sr. Joanna, Sr. Marina, and Sr. Vimala for their help and support for those days of struggle.



25 years passed as a religious and I returned to the Vice Province to thank God for the years of grace and faithfulness of the Lord. I thank Mother Mary who was by my side in my joys and pains. Later another challenge was waiting, from the classroom experience to the office of the Treasurer. What obedience? The Lord who called me led me to do that mission. The words of the Lord echoed in my heart, "Fear not I am with you". Thanks to Sr. Mariamma for her guidance and Sr. Reema for her assistance. There was joy and relaxation when I helped the children to prepare for the sacraments in the Resurrection parish and St. Peter's. Even today the parishners acknowledge the services for their children. There are no gains without a pain is reality in my life. The Lord alone can fill the ups and downs of daily life. I carry on my life and mission with God's grace and strength. As long as I have the health I will carry on. Mother Mary has accompanied me many a times in my life journey and I am always grateful to

her for leading me to the true Light Jesus.

My mission in formation, Animation of communities, Finance office and sharing in the animation of the Region and Vice Province are moments where I learnt to let go and grow in my religious obedience through prayer and deepening my faith in the one who called me. I am ever grateful to the Lord and all those who walked with me in the journey to follow the will of my Lord.

Sr. Josephine Kuruthukulangara OP



## Vow of Poverty: Frees to Love and Serve God



It's a call to live a simple life. I commit to share my resources, my time, and talents within the community and with those in need and "Place all things in common" (Acts: 2:44). This means that any money earned or gifts received are for the good of all. Vow of poverty is a charism of following Jesus Christ who is poor. Religious poverty at the most profound level is a special gift from the Lord, before it can be a response to the Lord's love. The vow of poverty as a charism is meant to safe guard against all abuses related wealth and property. Yet another challenge today is that materialism which craves possessions. The prime motive of embracing the vow of poverty voluntarily is not to enter into solidarity with those who have nothing but to love.

Poverty empowers me to give up everything for Him. Because I am free to love and serve him in the down-trodden, the outcasts, the marginalized and the poor.

The people who inspired me in life to live a poor life first of all are my Parents specially my Mother, Jesus Christ, Mother Mary and a few Sisters when I started my religious life in my congregation. My mother always gave importance to live a poor life even though we belong to a Middle Class family. She gave importance to have concern for the poor. Jesus though he was rich, he became poor and he gave preference for the poor people. Mother Mary always embraced poor and simple way of life. When I joined the Congregation, I really liked this congregation to see the simple way of life, dealings of all the Sisters, all were treated equally and there weren't any indifferences.

**ARE NOT FIVE SPARROWS  
SOLD FOR TWO SMALL COINS?**

**YET NOT ONE OF THEM HAS  
ESCAPED THE NOTICE OF GOD.**

LUKE 12:6 NAB

In the Beginning I found it hard not having a power to buy my own and to ask for what I need. Once I understood my call and purpose, now I don't mind to be fully dependent on him who has called me and surrender to him. Vow of poverty reminds me that I need to dependent on God's gifts completely. I am inter connected with people and with the earth and so vow of poverty is in many ways a vow of gratitude, gratitude that gives rise to solidarity, sharing and service.

Vow of poverty invites me to be satisfied in everything: whatever I have and whatever I get, to be not demanding anything, to be joyful when receive and give to the other joyfully whatever I can. Vow of poverty motivates me to respond to Jesus Christ's call in love. This loving response made by the power of his spirit leads me to a preference for the poor. Poverty empowers me to give up everything for him. Because I am free to love and serve him in the downtrodden the outcasts, the marginalized and the poor.

In our society where consumerism is the norm, across our world when there are huge disparities between rich and poor and when greed is destroying our earth, vow of poverty today means much more. Vow of poverty stands as a witness to God's gifts to be shared by all and teaches the value of relationship over possessions, respect and care for God's good creation, concern for and solidarity with the poor.

Sr. Maria Sundari Furtado OP

## Poverty: a Path for Contemplation and Mission

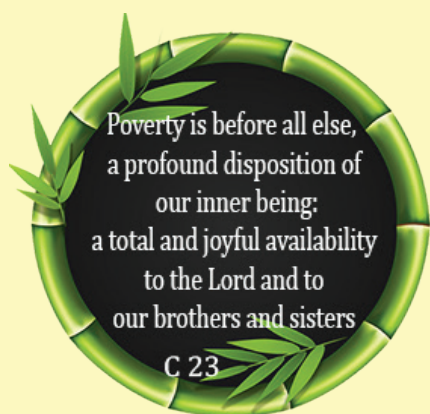
November 21st is a special day for us Dominican sisters of charity of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We renew our vows of obedience, poverty and chastity on this day honoring the memory of the offering of Mary to the Lord's service in the temple of Jerusalem. Our most loving redeemer was pleased to be poor on earth. "He although rich became poor for your sake, that through his poverty you might become rich" (2 Cor 8:9). Our Lord issues this invitation: "If you would be perfect go sell what you have and



It is the disposition of our heart that we are nothing and we have nothing unless it is given from the Lord, makes us objects of his contemplation in unconditional love. All that we are and all that we have is because of the power and grace of God in us. The more we experience the emptiness in our hands, the more freely we can receive.

give it to the poor and come follow me". Mary his most perfect disciple indeed imitated His example. Her's was the happiness of bearing in her womb him whom she would obey as her master. She is the poor one who glorified the Lord. She did say: "From now on all generations will call me blessed," but she is also the one who said: "I am the handmaid of the Lord." I give God all that he gave me. All I have is my being, that of a handmaid. She knows that she has

very little, her being as a handmaid, and yet she still offered her whole being." Mary is just like all those people who knew how to accept faith in poverty.



Only our poverty can assure us that God loves us unconditionally. It is not our intelligence, not our virtues. It is not our education, neither our charitable work nor our beauty. Only our poverty can reveal to us the depth of God's love, that he loves us for no reason at all. It is the disposition of our heart that we are nothing and we have nothing unless it is given from the Lord, makes us objects of his contemplation in unconditional love. All that we are and all that we have is because of the power and grace of God in us. The more we experience the emptiness in our hands, the more freely we can receive. Let us learn from Mary that the best way to acknowledge God's

work in our life is to sing along with her "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." because he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

... Poverty frees us to be content and happy and help us to use the available goods with gratitude and making the best use of it and reminds us to be responsible to preserve it for the best use of those come after us. Let us thank the Lord for Mary, because, by confessing her poverty she entirely offered whatever little she had, and, she showered humanity with many blessings.. We have nothing to lose anyway, but God. May she intercede for us that we may embrace this divine virtue and be free to receive his graces and pass it on to our brethren without holding to ourselves alone and magnify the Almighty who fills us with good things.



Sr. R. Pratheeksha OP



## Chastity Liberates the Heart to Respond to Jesus Freely



On the feast of the Presentation of Mary in the temple, we are invited to make the choice to surrender our lives to the Lord. The parents of Mary, Joachim and Anne presented her to the Lord in the temple and dedicated her life totally to Him. Mary had already been chosen by God, preserved by a singular grace as a chosen vessel through whom the Incarnated Word would be given for the salvation of the whole world. However the offering by her parents was a response to the invitation to join our free choice to God's invitation. This exercise of freedom lies at the heart of discipleship and it is the inner core of every vocation, to co-operate with grace. Mary was a woman of prayer and had intimate communion with God. Mary is in fact the sublime example of perfect consecration since she belongs completely to God and is totally devoted to Him. True devotion to Mary is an important element to follow Jesus in a perfect way. She remains a unique model for consecrated people in their endeavor to live a holy life.

Consecrated persons are called constantly to deepen the gift of the evangelical counsels with a love which grows strong in the Trinitarian dimension; love for Christ which leads to closeness with Him, love for the Holy Spirit who opens our hearts to his inspiration, love for the Father the first origin and supreme goal of the consecrated life. Of the three vows that forms the basis of consecrated life; chastity is perhaps the most challenging one. Though it finds its mandate in the words of Christ that some embrace chastity 'for the sake of the kingdom of Heaven' (Mt:19:12) and in the ministry of St. Paul who hoped that all could be single and chaste 'like him' (1 cor:7:7). It has been and remains an observance which seems to contradict what most of us regard as one of the best opportunities in life to fall in love with another person and giving ourselves totally to them manifest that love physically in the creation of new life. But in Christ it is possible to love God with all one's heart putting him above every other love and thus to love every creature with the freedom of God.

In Christ it is possible to love God with all one's heart putting Him above every other love and thus to love every creature with the freedom of God.

Consecrated life is beautiful and meaningful if it is lived for service and commitment. It is not just remaining unmarried. In this fragmented and fractured world we are called to create relationship with God, nature and others through the vow of consecrated chastity. The virtue of chastity means placing our desire for sexual pleasure under the guidance of reason and faith. It is one of the corner stone of the temple of our body a necessary pillar of right living. The vow of chastity liberates our heart to respond freely to Jesus and to direct our energies towards mission. It widens our capacity to love and to let ourselves be loved. If lived fully, chastity speaks to the centrality of God and God's love in all of one's life. It is the vow of chastity that I believe is at the very heart of what it means to be a true vowed religious. It touches the core of my life and it helps me to love people inclusively. Vow of chastity is not as much a matter of renunciation as of daily embracing the way, God chooses to give His life through me to others. This is the awesome vocation of a consecrated religious and I thank God daily for His gift to me.

Mary, the mother of Jesus and our mother is the one on whom we can focus our hearts to find the ways to follow Jesus in



a perfect way. She is our model. She is the model of perfect consecrated disciple at all times. Let us ask through the intercession of Mary our mother to be truly Christ bearers in our daily life bringing Christ into every sphere of our life and relationships. May she be a true model for each one of us.

Blessed Mary our mother, Pray for us.

Sr. Divya George Anthikkat OP

## Chastity- a call to Love

Before you were born I consecrated you. (Jer : 1:5) Although all Christians are consecrated to God in baptism and all are called to make “a generous gift of our lives, in the family, at work, in service to the Church, (and) in works of mercy,” those in religious life experience this consecration “in a particular way.” “Consecration” means “set apart.” Those called to consecrated life are “set apart” by God for this particular way of life which expresses the deepest nature of the Christian vocation and the yearning of the church as the union with sole spouse. “Totally consecrated to God, they are totally given over to their brethren, to carry the light of Christ where the darkness is thickest and to spread his hope to hearts who are discouraged. Through consecration one imitates Christ’s own poverty, chastity, and obedience, offer “a special witness to the gospel of the Kingdom of God.” one commits to giving everything (poverty) and doing anything (obedience) in God’s service, as a loving response to God’s love for them (chastity). In my sharing, I would like to emphasize the vow of chastity.



One grows closer to our Lord the bride. It builds true love and friendship; it gives to a community life the quality that fosters joy, friendship, trust, that marks all our relationships.

Chastity one of the three vows that form the basis of consecrated life. Chastity is the virtue of wholeness, the virtue that prevents us from being reduced to a mere appetite. The chaste person does not sacrifice joy for pleasure but one who lives her/ his sexuality in the right way. Abstaining from every form of evil, that is to live purity of intention in mind, body and heart, in other words in thought word and in action. Keeping a free heart that tarnishes love: that is holiness. Jesus promises that those who are pure in heart “will

see God”. Living a vow of chastity is with the total reality of our being as women that we assume chastity through ordinary choices or difficult renouncement. Chastity is rooted in this vision of love: with purity of heart, seeing God’s very image in others and in self. One grows closer to our Lord the bride. It builds true love and friendship; it gives to a community life the quality that fosters joy, friendship, trust, that marks all our relationships.

The first Evangelical Virtue of Mary is Chastity and is a Model of Freedom of Chastity. She has a heart free to love everyone, not looking for her glory, honor and power but with a free will and pure love. At the Annunciation Mary said to the Angel, “How shall this be done, since I do not know man? Lk.1:34. How it could since I am a virgin? Mary was well aware about the chaste life and the society around her. How hard it has been to remain a virgin? Her culture wasn’t any more accepting of virginity than ours is.

Mary is the perfect example and model for the consecrated life. We are all called to follow her example in our commitment. We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves. To love is to wish the good of another since God is love and we



In a world thirsting for happiness and communion, where the meaning of fidelity is difficult to perceive, our way of living chastity proves that God can fill to overflowing those who consecrate themselves to Him

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are children of God. Certainly there can be no love without works of love, but the beatitudes remind us that the Lord expects a commitment to our brothers and sisters that comes from our heart. A heart that loves God and neighbor, (Mt. 22:36-40) genuinely and not merely in words, is a pure heart, it can see God.

Sr. Suchita Lakra

## Mary : The Role Model for My Missionary Journey



We are all familiar with Mary's humble beginnings, her deep faith, grace, and docile nature, and her nurturing presence during the life of our Lord. But what are we to learn from our Spiritual mother? She is the mother of the Church who evangelizes, and without her, we could never truly understand the spirit of mission, Mary is a missionary. "The simplest meaning to be a missionary is "bringing Christ to others and others to Christ" through our life of service. Mary's YES was her obedience to begin her Mission. Mary is the Model of missionary through her very yes. Our mission in Christ also begins in our yes to the Lord. Here I want to share my missionary voyage to Korean soil.

**Put a little pep in step:** The phrase that always jumps off the page for me is "in haste". Mary went in haste to be of service to her cousin, Elizabeth, whom she had just found out was pregnant in her old age. Mary too is pregnant and Secondly she didn't relax or stop at Dunkin Donuts for an Iced Coffee on the way and arrive a few hours later or had another appointment. More than likely she walked....over the hills....for hours, if not days without delay.

Mary's Yes to the grace of God, strengthened to say my Yes to this missionary call. With the word "The Lord will never lead you, where the grace of God cannot reach you" this word always reminded me the grace of God and I began my missionary journey in 2008.

Seeing Mary's haste to do service to her cousin in joy and my call to serve as missionary is more likely the same. I feel I was neither haste to respond nor excited with this missionary call. Total trust in God was not easy for me largely because we live in a future oriented world. We are always thinking about the future. For me too personally a call to be a missionary was not reality, I thought that, I was not prepared to be a missionary so early at the beginning of my religious life. My yes to accept to be the missionary in the land of Korea was a list of questions, doubts and fears. Am I worthy? should I say yes or no? What about my people in my country and family? Is it going to be my consecrated life away from my country and people? And so on...



I knew this questions were normal to come and Sr. Mariamma at that moment helped and prepared me to answer this call and Sr. Deepa being animator at that time, encouraged me to respond to this missionary call. Mary's Yes to the grace of God, strengthened to say my Yes to this missionary call. With the word "The Lord will never lead you, where the grace of God cannot reach you" this word always reminded me the grace of God and I began my missionary journey in 2008.

**Service requires sacrifice:** Mary's visit to Elizabeth lasted for three months (Luke 1:56). Mary was willing to make the sacrifice necessary to help, meet Elizabeth's needs. True Christian service requires a heart open to sacrifice and an attitude of putting other's needs before our own. Do I have a heart like Mary, willing to make sacrifices for this mission? and offer my

service to this mission which demands me to learn the language, which I have never heard. To accept the culture, food, life style, of this mission was not easy. To edify my service I needed to do professional studies. This demanded lot of sacrifices, patience and perseverance. When I finished my studies, I said thank God I crossed the big high mountain but I did not realize, that I was just In front of the another mountain. My Yes demanded surrender, though I felt doubts, fears. Coming to a unknown land with unfamiliar life, Once I give way to the acceptance it becomes easier. Doubts and fears always accompanied me but grace of God helped to overcome it.

**There is joy in encountering the Lord:** Pope John Paul II calls the mystery of the Visitation a "mystery of joy". He says:"But what is mysterious, concealed source of such joy? Mary in her journey to Elizabeth has to encounter ups and down of hills, Stony and rough road, peoples criticism, and what not, but Mary encountered everything with JOY. In every encounter she experienced the Lord. Yes, once I began to encounter sisters in the community, in my mission, children, benefactors and people, I began to encounter the Lord. It is not easy to encounter everything with joy and happiness. As we know with joy there is time of sorrow, there is time of success and failure, encouragement and discouragement. When I recognized, experienced and encountered the Lord in everything, there was cheerfulness and acceptance which gave me interior joy. Many people and even our girls ask me why am I here? why did you come? And my answer to them was "for you" . When I said this I did not realize it, deeply thought yes, to be a missionary is not for oneself but for others.



**Trust in the Lord bears fruit:** Proverbs 3:5 challenges us to "Trust in the Lord with all of your heart; on your own intelligence do not rely. "Like Mary, we may not know all the details of the mission the Lord is asking us to do. We may wonder what the future will hold for us if we follow God's ways and surrender fully to his will in our lives. It is in moments of questioning, or fighting off the temptation to "rely on our own intelligence" that we should call upon our Blessed Mother for her intercession, so that we too can "bear fruit that will last."(John 15:16)

In 2018 October I had the opportunity to participate and share my missionary experience in Korea, on an International missionary day, there were four priests and myself were asked for panel. And in the list of many questions, there was a question to express a missionary experience in a symbol or sign. One of the participant priest expressed, it is a Lolly pop candy, the more you lick and enjoy the more you get the sweetness and taste, the other said vast open sky, open and ready to embrace us . And finally it was my turn I said, it is packed gift in front of you, unless you open it you cannot see what is in it or enjoy it. When we deeply see these symbols, all likely to give us the same message. Being a missionary we discover more and more of ourselves and the Lord. On this day the last question was asked to give a final message to all the audience, I concluded it in the words of Blessed Marie Poussepin, "The Lord will never fail, to grant you all that you need". For our missionary journey all we need is that trust and surely God will not fail to give us all that we need.

Sr. Suman Kujur OP.

"The great challenge is to respond with our life and our actions whatever can be done to restore human dignity, denouncing any abuse that threatens life, with obvious actions of justice and peace, defending life and caring for our common home". (55th GC)



## The Joy of My Commitment



Mary said "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your Word (Lk 1:38). Mary surrendered herself fully and totally to the will of God. What made Mary to answer this way? Mary was presented in the temple at the age of 3 by her parents Saints Joachim and Ann. In other words, she had consecrated herself from her very childhood. She wished to remain hidden from the World and to be known only to God. God led Mary into solitude in order to prepare her for her great Vocation. And there in the temple, God was speaking to her heart. Mary's heart was so free from all worldly desires that the Holy Spirit found her capable of receiving every inspiration. She grew to such a degree of holiness that the Angel Gabriel declared her full of grace. Mary was able to ponder over the Word, contemplate the Word and the Word to become flesh in her. Mary remained faithful till the end of her earthly life. Yes, Mary is the perfect model for my committed life. God chose her before she was born. She had the joy of being the mother of Jesus and giving Jesus to all. The commitment of Mary inspires me. I would like to share my inspirations and the joy of my committed life.

God calls us even when we are in our Mother's womb. Before I formed you in the womb... (Jer 1: 4 -5). It's God who takes the 1st step. We only have to respond to His call. I was taken to my mother's home by my grandparents at an early childhood which enabled me to get a good faith formation by my grandparents and the Carmelite sisters (CMC). After the 10th Standard I responded to the invitation of God through the instrument of my Uncle Fr. Hugh OFM Cap, a companion of Fr. Claude. It was God Him-

He used me as His small instrument in His healing Ministry, to mend the broken families through JFRC, help the Children through Counselling in the School, to radiate His love and peace to our brothers and sisters. When God calls, He says "I will be with you" as in the case of Moses, Abraham etc. When God calls and entrusts with a Mission, God will help us to do everything smoothly. God was with me always and I have experienced His guiding hand.

self who gave me the courage to say 'Yes' in spite of the objection from my family. That was my first 'yes' and God was guiding me throughout these years. Just before my first Commitment, I had to go through some dark moments in my life since my mother's health was poor. This was the time I experienced the Lord in a deep and personal way and I wanted to surrender myself to Him fully and totally. The day of my final Commitment was the most beautiful day in my life as I surrendered myself to Him fully. With Mother Mary, I was able to sing the Magnificat, 'My soul rejoices in God my Saviour. In my childhood days my Grandmother (maternal) played a great role in my faith formation. In very beginning of my religious life, I was inspired and received a lot of inputs to lead a good Religious life with commitment and fidelity from Mother Pau-



line, Sr. Ascension, Sr. Marina and Sr. Patricia. Above all I had greatest joy when I found the greatest treasure in the Lord Himself.

As I sit in the presence of the Lord, I realise that I am zero before God called me, a mere child. But when God called me, he gave me a great value, someone precious in His sight a child of God. He used me as His small instrument in His healing Ministry, to mend the broken families through JFRC, help the Children through Counselling in the School, to radiate His love and peace to our brothers and sisters. When God calls, He says "I will be with you" as in the case of Moses, Abraham etc. When God calls and entrusts with a Mission, God will help us to do everything smoothly. God was with me always and I have experienced His guiding hand. We only have to trust in His providential care as our Mother Foundress did. Our Consecrated life is like swimming against the water Current. I have to depend on the Lord's grace alone to reach the destination. When I look back into my life, I had my ups and downs in my life. There was a decline in my first enthusiasm and love as the years went by. The book of Revelation says, "But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first"(Rev 2:4). Yes, I had lost my first enthusiasm and love. His grace brought me back to Him. Whenever I go astray, He and His Mother Mary comes in search of me. It is His faithfulness and love I want to celebrate rather than my own faithfulness. Amazing Grace! How sweet the Sound that saved a wretch like me! Thy loving and Compassionate look of Jesus at Peter transformed him and enabled him to die for Jesus. His compassionate love has changed me to a new Person.



Community plays a great role to live Consecrated life. When we have a good, fraternal and praying Community, it helps the members to be happy and to be faithful to the Consecrated life. I have to deepen my love relationship with the Lord through my prayer life and sacramental life. Only this will help us to remain faithful to Him always. The road that leads to the Lord or to perfection is narrow while the road to the World is broad. For this, I have to renew my 'yes' to the Lord daily as our Mother Foundress has advised. Mother Mary continued her Commitment and fidelity always in her life.

Our Lady was filled with Jesus. She conceived Him and became the moving tabernacle. In my life of Consecration, I have to be filled with Jesus and bring Him to my brothers and sisters especially to the suffering humanity by my very life (prayer life). John 21:17-18, Jesus said to him "Feed my sheep, Truly, truly I say to you, when you were young, you girded yourself and walked where you would, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish to go."

Sr. Annamma Attahichirayil OP

## ❏ Mary: Motivator and Intercessor for My Missionary Journey ❏



I always enjoy being in the family. Praying and celebrating the Holy Mass together, working, enjoying, and having food together in the family is a matter of enrichment and happiness. When I say family, I mean the family where I came from and where I am now. The vocation that I received to our congregation "Dominican sisters of the Presentation" is another wonderful and beautiful family. By the love, care, prayers and guidance of our family, we receive the first formation. I think everyone will join my opinion that the sacrifices and hard work, the simple faith, and our parents' determination, fidelity and commitment, made us what we are today. We observed and participated in their love and care, hard work, and sacrifices. The guidance that we received from our family is tremendous



in any difficult situation in our life. For them, God is everything. That is why they made it a point to offer us to the Lord through mother Mary often. It is their fidelity reflected from their heart while praying.... " Ningaludepaathapankajathil, Njanga-levachithakumbeedunnen.."[We offer ourselves and bow before you, Mother Mary and Jesus].

I came to the world on May 1st. In my culture month of May is dedicated to Mary our mother and every evening we have special prayers to Mary our mother. Of course, our family gathered and prayed together. I do believe that the origin of my vocation is from my family. Like everybody I also received the basic elements of

spiritual life from my family through daily rosary, Holy Mass and other prayers. Mother Mary has a great role in our family issues. The sharing of the matters, the discussions, the suggestions, and finely

when the time of decision making arrives my father used to say " let's ask mathav ( Mother Mary ), She will have the answer ". My father is always interested in initiating the evening prayer Even the presence of any guest or any feast or holiday would not make him miss the daily family prayer. He usually starts the prayer with a song to the Holy Spirit. He was very particular that the prayer should end with a Marian song ( 'adhithyaprabha pol '...is his favorite). My mother used to call us for Holy Mass, especially on Saturdays to the church for a novena of perpetual help.



I know most of us have the same story. I was trying to convey that our parents presented us to Jesus. There is a role that has been played by 'Anna and Joachim' in the life of mother Mary, has been played to by our parents in each of our lives. I'm very sure whenever any duty is asked or entrusted to me by my superiors; I remember my father and his words, you are called the vineyard of God, so do whatever is being asked and go where ever you are asked to. Even after the demise of my father, I ask him for guidance.

Fidelity is a virtue that is demanded from each of us when we face the hardship one or another. When we see others in need, suffering, sorrowful or persecuted, we must make a choice. We must either turn away in weakness and selfishness, or we must turn to them, bearing their crosses with them offering support and strength. I was reflecting upon the fidelity of our Blessed Mother. She was a faithful friend, relative, spouse and mother throughout her life. She never wavered in fulfilling her duty no matter how small or how great the burden. Reflected upon the ways that God is calling me to act with unwavering commitment toward another. As a young girl I was fascinated by Mary's visit to Elizabeth. She went to care for Elizabeth during her own pregnancy. She dedicated three months of her time doing what she could to make the last months of Elizabeth's pregnancy comfortable. She would have been there to listen, to understand, to offer advice, to serve and to simply express that she cared. Elizabeth would have been greatly blessed by the presence of the Mother of God during those three months. This inspired me to do everything whole heartily and faithfully. The challenging missions of Varadium and South Korea made me to hold on the Holy Rosary and ask for such kind of fidelity in order to be a daughter of Blessed Marie Poussepin, Social Apostle of Charity. I was surprised to know that South Korea is a country, started Christianity without any Christian missionaries. History says that few people gathered together and they started reciting rosary .... Thus Christianity started. Month of May is very particular for Koreans, dedicated to Mary our mother. We also celebrate in our community Som Mo Ye Pam means Mother Mary's night. What a lovely celebration. I used to enjoy that.

I reflect upon the holy and captivating relationship that Mary would have shared with Joseph and her Divine Son. Imagine the deep emotion and passion that would have filled her heart. Imagine the level of unwavering commitment she would have had. Imagine the unbreakable bond that was forged as a result of her love. Jesus has a particular person who carried Him in her womb, nursed Him, raised Him, taught Him, loved Him, was there for Him, and pondered who He was throughout His life. I visualize the young lad obediently standing near mama at Cana wedding and mama is saying to the people “do as he says “. So beautiful! Many times I have asked her to request for me to her son, thinking that He may not listen to me if I ask Him directly. I am sure that He will never say “No” to her. She has the power to make her son understand the needs of others. She nursed Him, taught Him, raised Him up, and was with Him at the Crib till the Cross. Therefore I use rosary to meet the mother and her beloved son Jesus himself. The power of the Rosary gave me the courage to stand firm when I faced problems especially in Korean Mission. The community stood together and prayed rosary with a great intention. And of course the justice won.

Mary Most Holy, Queen of the Holy Rosary, Pray for us.

Sr. Moly Pengiparamban OP

## Temple; the home to prepare her motherhood for Jesus



Presentation of Mary in the temple was a mystery that  
 Revealed to Mary that she would be the mother of  
 Eternal God and for all eternity  
 Sent by God to the world,  
 Eternal mother who is a model, where all the  
 Nations are proud to call her blessed. And the  
 Temple was her home to prepare her motherhood  
 for Jesus, the GOD who is  
 Alpha and Omega who will



Turn the entire world from sorrow to joy, covid to health and  
 Indeed, blessed Mary certainly did the Father's will,  
 Offering her youthfulness to the mystery incarnate  
 Never ever can equate thus the great 'Fiat' of Mary because  
 Of the faith, that she believed and conceived in her heart and thus  
 Father's will was so dear to her and hence  
 Mary's happiness of first bearing in her womb the master, was  
 An experience of the living Tabernacle; Jesus, Love Incarnate, and her  
 Response was not a onetime reaction but a continuous  
 Yes to the will of the Father in the redemptive act, and  
 In all the circumstances Mary was found to be pondering the mystery incarnate  
 Nevertheless in every encounter, she surrendered to the Love and submitted to  
 The Word of God which she was most certainly attuned to and thus constantly  
 Hearing to the reality around her, by  
 Encountering Elizabeth and encouraging Jesus at the Wedding Feast at Cana in Galilee  
 To change the water into wine and  
 End the shame and embarrassment of the situation. Also  
 Mary was present at the most significant event of Paschal mystery and she is  
 Present in our day – to –day struggle to  
 Lead us in the journey of love, peace and hope to the  
 Eternal God; the giver of life, at this crisis; the Covid pandemic

Sr. A Mary Jayanthi OP



## KNOW THE DOMINICAN SAINTS



### QUIZ ON ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

1. What was the year St. Catharine of Siena born?
2. Where was St. Catherine of Siena born?
3. How many children did St. Catherine of Siena's parent have?
4. What was her place in the "birth order"?
5. As a teenager, what kind of good works did Catherine do?
6. What Country was Catherine born?
7. What vocation did her parents choose for St. Catharine of Siena?
8. What did St. Catherine of Siena Become?
9. Who was the confessor of St. Catherine of Siena?
10. Whom did St. Catherine of Siena support when great schism broke out?
11. What was the name of the book written by St. Catherine of Siena?
12. Where did St. Catherine of Siena die?
13. What year did St. Catherine of Siena die?
14. How old was St. Catherine of Siena when she died?
15. Which Pope buried St. Catharine of Siena?
16. In which Basilica St. Catharine of Siena was buried?
17. When did St. Catherine of Siena canonized?
18. When is the feast day of St. Catherine of Siena?
19. What title did Catholic Church give to St. Catherine of Siena?
20. Which Pope declared St. Catharine of Siena as the Doctor of the Church?
21. When Pope Paul VI declared St. Catharine of Siena as the Doctor of the Church?
22. Which category St. Catherine of Siena is being counted?
23. What made St. Catharine of Siena to suffer in her life?
24. What was the name of the place where Popes were residing at the time of St. Catharine of Siena?
25. Who was the Pope who was residing at Avignon at the time of St. Catharine of Siena?
26. Write three sentences about the picture given.



Kindly send the answers to the quiz on or before 25th November 2020.



**Hearty Congratulations !!!**

**The winners of July 2020 Quiz  
on St. Thomas Aquinas**

**Sr. Shiji Kurian Muprappillil OP  
Sr. Lamma Joseph Palamootil OP  
Sr. Annie Chummar Maniamkott OP**

**(Encouragement Prizes  
are offered to**

**Sr. Anula Irvin Suguna OP,  
Sr. Deepa Moonjely OP  
and Sr. Punam Lakra OP)**

**Short Video  
Competition -  
December-2020.**

**Duration - 3 Minutes  
Theme - Life and Mission  
of the Community cre-  
atively**

**The Last date to send the  
videos 30th Dec. 2020**

**For more info Contact  
Sr. Daisy Rose OP  
Sr. A Jenet OP  
Sr. P. Premalatha OP**

*Give Christ a dwelling place*

*Prepare the nest of heart,  
Patch up the broken parts,  
Place more softness in the center,  
Sit and warm the home with prayer,  
Give Christ a dwelling place.*





## Centire Cum Ecclesia.....Feel with the Church



### The Key Elements of Fratelli Tutti in the 55th General Chapter Document

Fratelli Tutti (All brothers) is the third encyclical of Pope Francis, subtitled of "on fraternity and social friendship". The document was signed on 3 October 2020, on the occasion of Pope Francis's visit to the tomb of his namesake, Saint Francis of Assisi, and was published on the saint's feast day. In the document, Francis states that the COVID-19 pandemic has proven the failure of the world to work together during the crisis. The encyclical calls for more human fraternity and solidarity, and is a plea to reject wars. The document focuses on contemporary social and economic problems, and proposes an ideal world of fraternity in which all countries can be part of a "larger human family." The encyclical invites everyone for a radical renewal, to have a broader mind to understand the reality of the world and to have a renewed spirituality and revitalize mission to build the kingdom of God as one human family.

I was overjoyed when I read the encyclical because the 55th General chapter document contains some of the key elements of the encyclical. I am happy that the Spirit directs the congregation along with the feelings of the Church. Although the encyclical does not offer many direct references to the document, the inspiration and decisions of the document is present throughout the text. There are several key themes that carry a distinctive character of the document. It is worth identifying and unpacking. I acknowledged the following elements of this social teaching are present in our chapter document. Calls for a Renewed Spirituality that Leads us to Go Beyond Borders

Fratelli Tutti: Chapter 2 of the encyclical, Pope Francis uses the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) to show how the Christian notion of relationship with others transcends the limits and qualifications we are quick to use in isolating ourselves from solidarity with others. By contrast, if we recognize that we are all sisters and brothers to one another, then we have an inherent bond with each other that demands something of us — our love, respect and care.

Pope Francis enjoins us, saying, Let us look to the example of the Good Samaritan. Jesus' parable summons us to rediscover our vocation as citizens of our respective nations and of the entire world, builders of a new social bond. The parable addresses the real challenge of human suffering and invites the hearer to an examination of heart. The interior struggle, that is, the tension between the personal sacrifice that charity demands and the security which unconcern and indifference appear to offer, unfolds in the depths of every person. The parable of the Good Samaritan begs every person of good will to examine that key aspect of human life that every Christian knows is true: in giving we receive. The pouring forth of selfless love, the imitation of Christ the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for his sheep, alone offers the restless heart peace. Its a call for a renewed spirituality to move beyond ourselves and to see the face of Christ in everyone.



Chapter Document: Our chapter document begins with the same passage calling us for a re-

newed spirituality with the same Word of God Lk 10:25-37. "With the look of mercy, we want to reach out to the poorest and most vulnerable with compassion in order to search with them new ways of working for human dignity and complete liberation in Christ" (pg 12). Pope Francis as well as the chapter document calls us forth to have renewed spirituality to cross our mental and spiritual borders to witness the gospel of the kingdom and to become the prophets of hope.

Call to vitalize the Mission - Realities that challenge us and encourage us to go beyond borders  
Fratelli Tutti: The encyclical presents the reality of today's world that challenge us to move forward and to revitalize our mission. Pope Francis criticizes racism, saying "Racism is a virus that quickly mutates and, instead of disappearing, goes into hiding, and lurks in waiting" It also condemns believers who continue to "support varieties of narrow and violent nationalism, xenophobia and contempt, and even the mistreatment of those who are different." He supports the cause of immigrants, saying: "No one, then, can remain excluded because of his or her place of birth, much less because of privileges enjoyed by others who were born in lands of greater opportunity. The Pope considers interreligious dialogue as a way to bring "friendship, peace and harmony," adding that without "openness to the Father of all," fraternity cannot be achieved. The Pope warns against selfishness in economy, and against financial speculation which "continues to wreak havoc." For the Pope, the COVID-19 pandemic has shown that "not everything can be resolved by market freedom" and that human dignity must be put "back at the center." Fratelli tutti affirms the right to property, but states that this right "can only be considered a secondary natural right" to that of human dignity. He attempts to reorient the right to property as a responsibility for the care of the whole planet. He also speaks about the dignity of women, liberty, equality and fraternity and so on... presenting the reality of today, pope Francis calls to revitalize our missionary response.



Chapter Document: The chapter document also presents similar realities that challenge us today. "Today, we live the drama of entire towns forced to move from their places of origin due to violence, marginalization and poverty of the most vulnerable groups of society: women, children, elderly, and the destruction and hoarding of natural resources for the economic benefit of the few. All these are cries of humanity that affect us and demand our response" (pg 17). In the introduction, the document confirms, the reality of the world and the Church cries out every day through new faces, new needs and new urgencies and moves us to new scenarios of mission. It also displays in the nut shell the area where we need to focus (pg 11). The chapter document urges us to restore the dignity of the human person, the integrity of creation, hope and peace in the light of the Gospel and our charism. Crossing the Borders and Building Bridges – Restructuration at the service of the Life and Mission

Fratelli Tutti: Today, Pope Francis calls on all his brothers and sisters, regardless of their religious tradition or nation of origin, to "see things in a new light and to develop new responses" to the challenges before us (Paragraph 128). Among these challenges is the increasing tendency that individuals and nations have to erect borders and walls, literal and figurative ones, which separate, isolate and exclude the most vulnerable in our world. His consistent critiques throughout the encyclical of con-



sumerism, capitalism, nationalism, xenophobia and other ascendant ideologies of our time also gesture to the importance of bridge building between peoples. The pope points to love as the necessary ground for our building a "culture of encounter," which "means that we, as a people, should be passionate about meeting others, seeking points of contact, building bridges, planning a project that includes everyone" (Paragraph 216). Pope notes, if we measure ourselves not merely as one country competing against others but "as part of the larger human family." He adds: "Only a social and political culture that readily and 'gratuitously' welcomes others will have a future" (Paragraph 141).

Chapter Document: Bl. Marie Poussepin crossed many borders and built many bridges in her time. She intentionally transgressed the social, civil and ecclesial border to embrace and then live with the poorest who had been neglected by others. She crossed the border of the 17th century and moved across the border of cloistered life of her time and chose active contemplation considering every human being as her "sisters" and "brothers."

Knowing the reality of the Church and the congregation, drawing inspiration from Jesus Christ and Bl. Marie Poussepin who went beyond borders; the document calls us to live an atmosphere of fraternity and communion that will enable us to discern the paths we have to travel to go beyond our own borders. Our commitment belongs to everyone, aware that the congregation needs each sister to achieve this purpose. Let nothing stop us from moving forward (pg 11). We are called to cross the bridges of our culture, country, language etc to embrace the universal mission of Christ. We become one, sisters for all, for a common cause. The document calls for restructuration at the service of the life and mission. It seeks that all sisters, communities and structures enter into a dynamic process, revitalize our religious consecration and commit ourselves radically in the mission of the Church to respond with newness to the reality of the world (pg 19). "We are embarking on a journey, which though difficult, opens us up to universality. Trusting in the action of the Spirit, we are sent to live like Marie Poussepin the passage from Dourdan to Sainville" (pg 21). Pope Francis as well as the congregation feels there is an urgent need to work together breaking our individual borders.

The above themes signal the manifold ways the chapter document haunts with this latest encyclical letter. As the church begins to unpack the wisdom and challenge present in this teaching during the coming weeks, months and years; the movement of the congregation, feeling with the Church for renewal become even more apparent. I feel Bl. Marie Poussepin would be well pleased with this movement of her daughters, but she would be truly overjoyed if her daughters actually take this teaching to heart and put in to practice.

Sr. A Jenet OP





### Google Drive: How to upload, download, view, and share files and documents

Google Drive is one of the handiest cloud storage services around, giving you 15GB of free space, which you can access from just about any device with an internet connection. **The age of USB thumb drives is over.**

Here's how to use Google Drive and some of its main functions

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4. Right-click on the file name to open a menu of options.
5. Click "Share."

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