



Marianist Moments

Feast of the Nativity of Our Lady

September 8

~ Meeting aid ~



Introduction

On September 8, we celebrate the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Virgin Mary entered this world sinless through the privilege of the Immaculate Conception and is the firstborn of the redeemed; thus, the feast of her Nativity is one of celebrations and causes of great joy, as she is considered the dawn of salvation for all peoples.

Prayer

Adapted from the Mass of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

✠ Eternal God, give us the gift of your heavenly grace that this feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin may bring your peace. As we celebrate the Nativity of Mary, we pray that we may receive strength through the humanity of your Son, who took flesh from Mary. We pray for your lasting peace to fill our hearts, minds, souls, and the world today. We make this prayer through Jesus your Son. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 1: 18-23, RSVCE

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

“Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel” (which means, God with us).

Silent Introspection

Marian Writings, Vol 1, 164, William Joseph Chaminade

Contemplate the following text from Father Chaminade's sermon on the Nativity of Mary.

“Who is this arising like the dawn” (Sg 6:9). . . Fidelity with which Mary corresponded with the grace she received from the very beginning.

The prerogatives of Mary's nativity should recall to us God's adoption of us as his children in baptism and the grace which reestablished all our rights to original innocence.

Mary's fidelity to the grace she received from the beginning gives us a model of the fidelity which we ourselves owe to the grace that was given to us in baptism.



Group Sharing

In light of the feast of the Nativity of Mary, let us recall the birth of a newborn child in our lives or immediate families. Reflect and share on the interior movements of mystery that accompany our experience of the miracle of birth and the innocent potential of each newborn baby.



(Image: The Birth of the Virgin, Giotto, 1300s)

✠ May the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary. Amen.