



Marianist Moments

Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8

Patronal Feast of the Marianist Sisters

~ Meeting aid ~



Introduction

On December 8, the Church celebrates the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Immaculate Conception is the patroness of the United States and several other countries. The feast is also the patronal feast of the Marianist Sisters, the Daughters of Mary Immaculate. We also remember that on this day in 1800, Blessed Chaminade was approached by a group of men to form the first Marianist Sodality.

Prayer

Adapted from Marianist Prayers for Marianist Days and Feasts

† Eternal God, in your gracious providence, you chose the Virgin Mary and her Immaculate Conception as a witness to your plan of salvation. Let the fullness of your grace bestowed upon Mary, enkindle in our hearts the light of hope, so that we may share it with all we meet. Let our lives be lives of gratitude, praise, and service. May we be leaders of your lasting peace in our Church and the world. We make this prayer through Jesus your Son. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Luke 1: 26-38, RSVCE

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no husband?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Silent Introspection

Marian Writings, Vol 1, 153, William Joseph Chaminade

Contemplate the following text from the writings of Father Chaminade on Mary's Immaculate Conception.

...because she "came down from God's heaven," from the heaven where the judgment and the eternal decrees of God are given and which are hers by participation. Likewise because she is "adorned like a bride," etc. Mary, being the unique spouse and the Mother of God, had to be adorned with every type of grace and exempt from all sin at the moment of her conception. "Who is this . . ." (Sg 6:9). She came forth adorned and enriched for God, who bestowed on her everything that he wished and he wished to give her all that he could, and he could give her everything short of divinity itself . . .



Group Sharing

Meditating on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, let us consider how the preservation of the purity of Mary's soul gives us hope for our own purification and wholeness.



(Image: The Immaculate Conception, Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, 1769)

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