



Marianist Moments

Feast of Mary, Mother of Grace, May 12

Pius IX approved the Society of Mary in 1865

~ Meeting aid ~



Introduction

On May 12, we celebrate the feast of Mary, Mother of Grace. On this day, Pope Pius IX approved the Society of Mary in 1865 and recognized it as a religious body with the Decree of Praise (1839) and Decree of Commendation (1865) issued by the Vatican recognizing the Society of Mary as an order of Brothers and Priests offering their services to the Church.

Prayer

✠ Eternal God, Bestower of all graces, shower us with your abundant graces as you did on Mary, Mother of Grace. May your grace lead us to your truth, mercy, and peace. Virgin Mary, guide us to grow strong in wisdom and charity. We pray for your peace to reign in our lives, hearts, and souls and for this peace to spread throughout the world today. 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 - 80, 115, William Joseph Chaminade

Contemplate the following text from the writings of Father Chaminade on Mary as the Mother of Grace.

"She [Mary] received such an abundance of grace, that she arrived at a very close union with the author of grace, and merited to receive in her the One who is filled with all graces. In giving birth to him, in some manner, caused this grace to flow on all men."

... Mary is full of grace, full of all the graces that God has destined for men, hence we must constantly have recourse to her since we constantly need graces.



Group Sharing

Meditating on the feast of Mary, Mother of Grace, let us recall and share an instance wherein we have been in a similar situation as Mary and experienced grace as a total gift from God, which led us to follow Him closely and trust in Him.



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