

REFLECTING ON THE TRIPTYCH

Presider:

I invite you now to let the triptych, and especially the icon, be a focus of meditation as we hear phrases from Scripture, the writings of our Founders, and other reflections.

Response:

Taste and see the grace eternal;
taste and see that God is good.

Reader:

Our Marianist brother Salvatore Santacroce, SM, from the Region of Italy, is the artist who wrote this icon. He reflects,

The icon of the “Wedding at Cana” brings into focus several key figures: Christ, the Mother of God, the servants, the amphorae (jars) and the table prepared for the feast.

Mary’s eyes express gentleness, and affectionate concern, as she appeals with outstretched hand, saying the words “Do whatever he tells you.”

Urged by his Mother into the reality that awaits him, Christ looks beyond the immediate, seeing his “hour” in the water that turns red and with cup and bread on the table, which anticipate and foreshadow his sacrifice.

The servant fixes his astonished gaze on Christ and comes to a new enlightenment that, through faithful obedience, is able to welcome the eruption of Divine Power within human reality.

At the top, the Marianist Cross strongly reaffirms our alliance with Mary to bring to the many tables of humanity “the good wine” the wine that has been “kept until now.”

Response:

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taste and see that God is good.

Reader:

Sr. M. Franca Zonta, the Superior General of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate, offered these thoughts inspired by Venerable Adele’s letter enclosed in this triptych:

As someone has rightly said, it is not so much the *why we entered religious life* that counts, no matter how banal, superficial or profound these reasons may be. Rather, what matters is *why we remain*, why we persevere. ...

May this Jubilee Year be an occasion for the purification of our “yes,” eliminating what time may have tarnished. “*Let us continue to prepare our hearts,*” as Adele says, so that our love may complement the boundless love that spurred Adele and Chaminade to generate the Family of Mary, so that her Son might be *known, loved and served!*

Response:

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Reader:

Let us take to heart other words by Venerable Adele:

“May everything be renewed in us: our heart, our language, and our works.”

“We are but one family; let us have but one heart and one soul, and belong to God alone.”

“We have a great deal of work to do; yet, let us never give way to discouragement. What can we not obtain from a God who is born in a crib for love of us? If we place our hope in him alone, we shall not be disappointed.”

Response:

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Reader:

Marianist Superior General Manuel J. Cortés gives us these reflections on Blessed Chaminade’s letter housed in the triptych:

We can never forget that Marianists are servants, not masters or lords; we are servants, children of the Servant of the Lord. In confronting problems and difficulties, we will have a share in the invincibility promised to Mary, from the beginning, if we maintain, above all, fraternal communion animated “by the direction of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, under the auspices of Mary.”

A spirit of service, following Mary, the Servant of the Lord, ... and fraternal communion in the purest, evangelical way, ... these are two principle motors, without which our lives and our mission would lose its consistency and meaning. What a good message

upon which to meditate and “keep in our hearts” during the celebration of our Bicentennial!

Response:

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taste and see that God is good.

Reader:

Let us take to heart other words by Blessed Chaminade:

“We have taken for our motto, the great phrase so full of sense and truth which Mary said to the servants at the wedding of Cana: ‘Do all that he will tell you.’”

“It seems to me that we must not become discouraged if we encounter some obstacle in the way of necessary change. Never has change been done and never will it be done without difficulty. With patience we will come to the end of all.”

“Ours is a work, a magnificent work. If it is universal, it is because we are missionaries of Mary, who has said to us, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’ Each one of us has received from the Blessed Virgin a commission to work at the salvation of our brothers and sisters in the world.”

Response:

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taste and see that God is good.