



Marianist Moments



Mary's Faith at the Nativity

~ Meeting aid ~

Opening Prayer:

Adapted from Prayers for Special Occasions, www.marianist.com/marianist-prayers

Gracious God, our Father,

You are always present to us, speaking to us through our circumstances and experiences. Give us the grace to trust like Mary did, the day she gave birth to your Son. Like her, give us the faith to ponder your wondrous signs in our lives, even when we do not fully understand them yet.

Mary, we come to you as once did the shepherds and kings,
to find Jesus, our King and Shepherd. We offer you our lives today.

May we always find Jesus with you and treasure all the wondrous things which
come to those who search for Jesus in faith.

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

Scripture Reading:

Luke 2: 7-19, NRSV-CE

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

Silent Introspection:

Armbruster (1980), William Joseph Chaminade: Marian Writings, Vol 1, 192



Fr. Chaminade writes,

“Our docility preserves us from regrets over the past, that last source of human anxieties.

Mary is our model. Because she cannot doubt that the hand of God alone guided her up to the present moment, she easily convinces herself that it is he again who leads her to the temple.

“(She) pondered them in her heart” (Luke 2:19) . . . the past should be a continual lesson for us wherein to study the adorable will of the Lord on the destiny of man . . . ”

Group Sharing:

Think of a time wherein you felt God was speaking to you through an experience that felt like a wonderful sign of his presence and promise in your life.

Share about how Mary’s pondering is a model for your own interior life.

