



Marianist Moments



Mary's Faith at the Visitation

~ Meeting aid ~

Opening Prayer:

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

Mary, our Mother,

inspired by your readiness to accept all that God would work in you, we offer you our hearts and lives so that we too might bring forth into our world Jesus Christ, the Savior.

May we be humble and compassionate and come to say as you did,

“Behold the servant of the Lord.” Amen.

Scripture Reading:

Luke 1: 39-56, NRSV-CE

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

Silent Introspection:

Armbruster (1980), William Joseph Chaminade: Marian Writings, Vol 1, 510

Fr. Chaminade writes:



“Mary set out.” Mary leaves her home; how precious and sweet it was. Only on an order from God and from a motive of charity does she leave it. If the angel says to her: “Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month” (Lk 1:26), it is not so much to prove to her that she can conceive and still remain a virgin, as to inform her that the condition of her cousin required her presence. . . .

“. . . as quickly as she could.” What are the reasons for this haste? Because she shared the loving dispositions of Jesus Christ whom she bore in her womb. “. . . the love of Christ overwhelms us” (2 Corinthians 5:14)

“. . . in the hill country.” A long journey, difficult terrain. In order to show us the true nature of his Mother’s love, Jesus Christ combines in this mystery all the difficulties that must be overcome and all the forms that love must take. “Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months.” Persevering love . . . Mary’s love is humble, generous, fearless, and constant.

Group Sharing:

In light of the scripture reading and Fr. Chaminade’s message above, consider how God may be inviting you to bring Christ to the world in this season of your life.

