



*Clerical*  
**MISSIONARY**  
**YEAR**  
To Love Is Our Mission!



## ***GFASC – Missionary Year – Reflection 7***

### ***MARY: A MISSIONARY*** ***(To love is my mission)***

*In the account of the visitation to Elizabeth we perceive a great work of evangelization, which Mary carries out in the power of the Holy Spirit. The wondrous effects of this action are evident.*

#### **THE WORD OF GOD (Luke 1: 39-45)**

During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

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By visiting Elizabeth, Mary performed a great service. She had to make a journey; she did not stay put. This dynamism is born from the power of the Holy Spirit that dwells in her heart. She makes haste. Her haste is born from the urging of the Holy Spirit and she does not want to waste time or get distracted. Mary follows the direction that the Holy Spirit inspires in her soul. This is important because she acts as a normal creature, but the human aspect is not sufficient. It is not enough to go to meet a relative. Mary greeted Elizabeth, embracing her with an embrace of

communion. The child leaping in Elizabeth's womb reveals that redemption has taken place, the Messiah has been recognized, salvation has burst forth into our world. This is why we celebrate the birth of John the Baptist, for he was sanctified in his mother's womb before he was born. Evangelization, then, is not simply a service to others. It is a mission, because it arises from the power of the Holy Spirit that the Christian carries within. Thus, evangelization and mission are effective because they lead to the salvation that Christ brought. Jesus cannot enter without the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

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**POPE FRANCIS**

Rediscover the beauty of praying the rosary at home....You can do it together or individually.

. . . Contemplate together the face of Christ with Mary, our Mother. It will unite us even more as a spiritual family and will help us to overcome this trial. I will pray for you, especially for those who suffer the most, and you, please pray for me. Thank you and I bless you from my heart. *(Pope Francis, April 25, 2020)*

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The Rosary draws us closer to the Heart of Jesus because the mysteries of the Rosary, such as the Luminous Mysteries, help us to know Christ deeply and to desire to follow and love Him more. By praying the Rosary we learn to love like Him, wherever we are—in health care, work with the sick and the most vulnerable, or in our families. This prayer helps us discover the closeness of Mary, who leads us to Christ and to the true peace that dissolves all our concerns and gives us the power to serve.

When we pray the Rosary, we entrust to the Virgin Mary our prayer intentions for the world and for others. In these days our prayer can be for many: our family members and friends, those who suffer, and all who struggle day and night with this pandemic. Certainly this prayer brings us closer to one another.

Prayer is more essential than ever. Prayer opens our hearts to others, makes us closer and more united. That is because to pray is not to think or reflect on ideas, but to meet the Lord, the One who revealed the depth of His love and mercy in Christ. When we pray, especially when we listen to God's Word, our hearts are transformed little by little, they are enlarged to become more compassionate.

Prayer is like the rain that nourishes the earth and bears fruit (Isaiah 55:10). It acts invisibly, in the depths of the earth, and then little by little, in the moment least expected, it comes to light. I have no doubt that its fruitfulness is immense. In the words of the Gospel, it produces "thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold" (Mark 4: 20).

It is God who frees us from the epidemic of fear to open our hearts. It is He who transforms us to open us up to compassion. It is He who revealed Jesus to us and gives to many men and women the ability to generously give of themselves, at their own personal risk, in order to ease suffering and guarantee that society can function. Without love, life would not be possible. (*Riccardo Benotti, March 19, 2020*)

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## **WORDS OF MOTHER CLELIA**

"Entrust yourself to your dear mother Mary; tell her that you want to love her Jesus and that you want to love Him very much; tell her to lend you her maternal heart so that you can genuinely love Him" (*Spiritual Anthology, p. 195*).



"I beg for you the maternal blessing of Mary most holy so that your hearts, blessed by her, might blossom with the flowers and fruits of true holiness" (*Spiritual Anthology, p. 200*).

## **PRAYER**

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course. To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

**Pledge:** To pray the Rosary every day.

**The Joyful Mysteries:**

*(Monday and Saturday)*

1. The Annunciation to Mary
2. Mary visits Elizabeth
3. Jesus is born in poverty in Bethlehem
4. Jesus is presented in the temple
5. Jesus is found in the temple

**Mysteries of Light:**

*(Thursday)*

1. The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River
2. Jesus is manifested at the wedding in Cana
3. Jesus proclaims the Reign of God and calls us to conversion
4. The Transfiguration of Jesus
5. The institution of the Eucharist

**The Sorrowful Mysteries:**

*(Tuesday and Friday)*

1. The Agony of Jesus in the Garden
2. Jesus is scourged at the pillar
3. Jesus is crowned with thorns
4. Jesus carries the cross
5. Jesus dies on the cross

**The Glorious Mysteries:**

*(Wednesday and Sunday)*

1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit on Mary and the first Christians
4. The Assumption of Mary into Heaven
5. The Crowning of Mary as Queen of the Universe

**God Alone! mc**

