

May 29, 2023



Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES

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MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

By Sister Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Today's First Reading

After Jesus had been taken up to heaven, the Apostles returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they entered the city, they went to the upper room where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James, son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas, son of James. All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

ACTS 1:12-14

An Excerpt from Today's Gospel

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary

the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

JOHN 19:25-27

Reflection

Today is the day after the Solemnity of Pentecost, the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles. As we read in Acts 1 above, the apostles, some women and Mary, the Mother of Jesus, were all gathered in prayer, waiting....

Mary, who experienced the visit of the Angel Gabriel inviting her to become the mother of the Messiah, was now present at the culmination of the Incarnation – the coming of the Holy Spirit. Mary was present in the beginning at the conception and birth of the Savior and present at the birth of the young Church.

Mary was also present when Jesus laid down his life for love of us all. When Jesus was dying on the cross, he saw his mother standing with the disciple whom he loved, and he entrusted them to each other. From that moment, the disciple whom Jesus loved took Jesus’ mother into his own home. How fitting that she was with the apostles in the upstairs room, gathered with the women and many disciples, waiting and praying for the gift of the Holy Spirit. In that outpouring of the Holy Spirit, she truly became Mary, the Mother of the Church.



Mary's house, where she lived in Ephesus
Photo by Sr. Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

For Pondering

Recalling the scene at the foot of the cross, Jesus gave the Beloved Disciple to his Mother as her son. From that moment, Jesus' mother became the mother of us all. Tradition tells us that, eventually, St. John the Apostle brought the Virgin Mary to the Christian community in the city of Ephesus, which today is part of Turkey, where he made a home for her. The place where Mary once lived (until she was brought to heaven) is revered by Christian and Muslim pilgrims. I had the joy of visiting there and I experienced an aura of quiet hovering over the restored house where she once lived and the fountains where she once drank the water.

Holy Mary is given to us as our mother. Can we make a home for her in our hearts? In our manner of being? Can she dwell with us in our families? In our communities? Can we welcome Holy Mary in the migrant at our door, in the woman asking to be heard in her suffering?

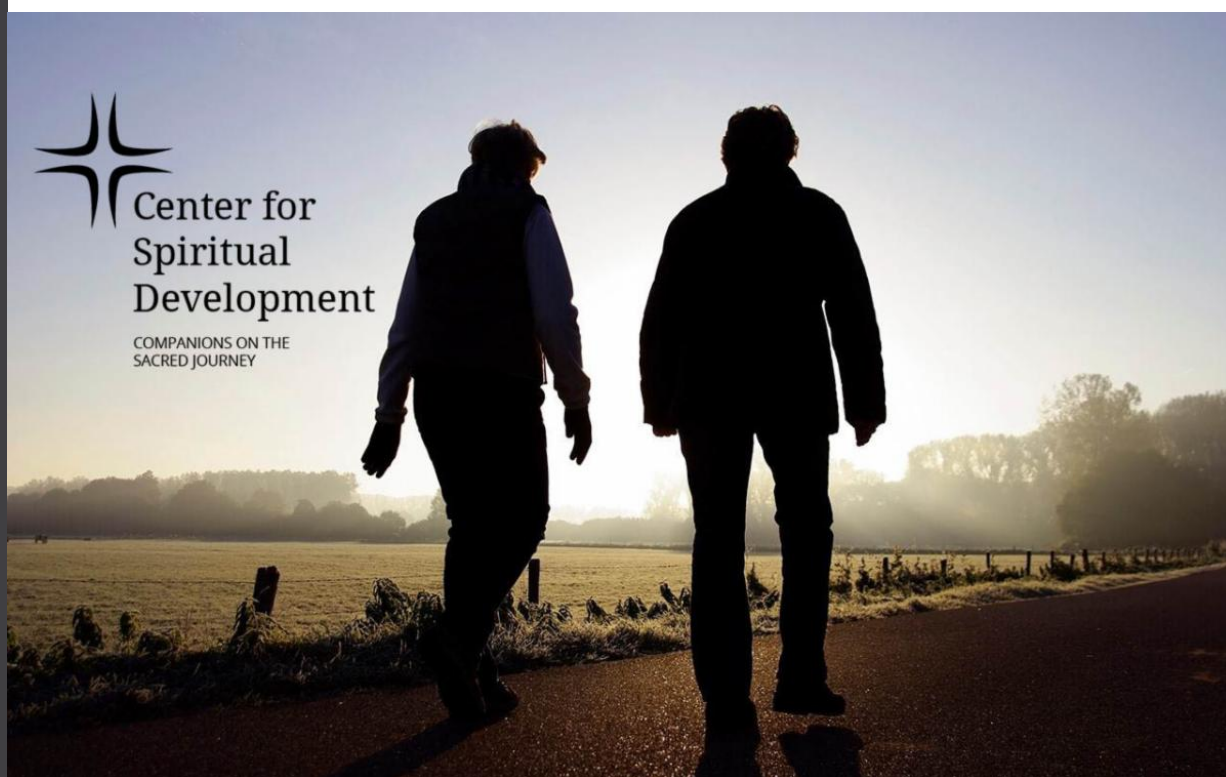
For Prayer

*O joyful Virgin, who gave birth to the Lord;
O blessed Mother of the Church,
who nurtures in us the Spirit of your Son Jesus Christ!*

ROMAN LITURGY FOR TODAY

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