

October 27, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

FIDELITY OF A CONTEMPLATIVE HEART

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Readings from the Gospel of Luke

"Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

LUKE 1:38

*"My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
The Lord who is mighty has done great things for me and holy is his name."*

LUKE 1:46-47, 49

"The thoughts of many will be laid bare and a sword will also pierce your heart."

LUKE 2:35

Reflection

MARY: Yes to Grace

Mary. Mother of Jesus, and Wife of Joseph. From her youth, she must have lived within a deep faith-filled relationship with God. Only this helps makes sense of God's choice and invitation for her to be the mother of Jesus and all that being so meant for her whole life. She seemed to live within God's desire for unity of all things and was responsive to God's lavish love. Her life witnesses to her fidelity to the Life and Love of God for her.

Belief in God's promises and reliance on grace moved her always toward transformation to the fullness of life in God. Mary shows us what it is like to nurture a deep relationship with God and to make room within oneself, the interior space needed to notice God's presence, to be responsive to the movements of grace in all aspects of life.

Scripture reveals that Mary was filled to overflowing with God's love. The Magnificat prayer reveals her deep devotion and willing acceptance of all that God asked of her. She was available to the movements of grace in her life. She rejoiced in God's abiding presence and recognized that God is intimately engaged with her, and with us, too. All is gift of God to be embraced, savored, and are freely given away.

Mary believed that God's promises would be fulfilled in her. She reveals that we, too, are called to be in a special relationship to God and open ourselves to God who offers us every kind of grace needed. Reflection on her very human life reveals someone who welcomed God in all aspects of human existence, the extraordinary joys and sorrows of life, and most assuredly in the valley of the ordinary. Mary lived her YES in fidelity to God's great Love and Promise.

So, like Mary, may we strive to be faithful to a deep and personal relationship with God and to be open to all the inspirations of the Holy Spirit.



Holy Family icon
Photo by Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

For Pondering

- What is your relationship to Mary, the Blessed Mother?
- What about the life of Mary, the mother of Jesus, captures your imagination?

- How might Mary's faith journey speak to your own life?

For Prayer

*Gracious God of life and goodness,
thank you for the example of the Holy Family
in living a life devoted to your desire for them.*

May the Un-Created Trinity

*Help us to serve with the humble zeal and compassionate love of Jesus
Open us to a contemplative heart and fidelity to God's grace, like Mary.
Amen.*

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