



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

DEDICATED TO GOD

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's Gospel

*"For whoever does the will of my heavenly Father
is my brother, and sister, and mother."*

MATTHEW 12:50

Reflection

Today the Church celebrates the Presentation of Mary in the temple when she was three years old and dedicated to God. This was to carry out a promise made to God when Anne was still childless. As with Mary's birth, we read of Mary's presentation in the temple only in what is recognized as an unhistorical account.

"Though it cannot be proven historically, Mary's presentation has an important theological purpose. It continues the impact of the feasts of the Immaculate Conception and of the birth of Mary. It emphasizes that the

holiness conferred on Mary from the beginning of her life on earth continued through her early childhood and beyond.” (Quoted from Franciscan Media.)

The focus of the celebration of the Presentation today draws attention to the fact that God chose to dwell in Mary in a very special way. In response, Mary freely placed her whole self at the service of God. Many faith traditions invite personal dedication to God. Every day since the moment you and I were dedicated to God, we have been invited to be open to Divine grace and seek to live a life in God’s ways, as Mary did.

While she was dedicated to God by her parents, the total gift of herself to God was realized in her “Yes!” to becoming the mother of Jesus. She became the temple of God made flesh within her.

My own relationship with God has taught me that I follow in Mary's footsteps in my own dedication, first by my parents in Baptism, then later when I was able to choose for myself, in Confirmation and Vows. God has chosen me and you and is at home within our souls. We, too, are called to be holy. God desires that we enjoy and share in God’s saving work. We do this in faith, love, and hope as we each uniquely reflect something of God’s goodness and love. God dwells within us; to this we witness by our lives.



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For Pondering

- How am I dedicated to God? What is my experience of belonging to God?
- For which graces or blessings am I most grateful?

- How do I perceive myself as the “temple of God?”
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For Prayer

*Loving God,
Joachim and Anne delighted in being the parents of Mary so much
that they dedicated her to you as a young child.
In time she grew in age, wisdom, and grace, devoting herself to you.
Her love was so great that when asked to be the mother of Jesus,
she proclaimed her “YES!”
You strengthened her for the journey as a mother.
Such great love enabled her to engage every opportunity to stand with Jesus,
despite the suffering that love demanded.
Teach me, Divine One,
to give myself to you and to be your great love in the world
as you desire of me.
Make me more your own each day.
Amen.*

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