



PILGRIMS OF HOPE

WITH MARY AND ST. LOUIS DE MONTFORT



Second handout JUBILEE: with Mary

KNOW HER

“Hope finds its supreme witness in *the Mother of God*. In the Blessed Virgin, we see that hope is not naive optimism but a gift of grace amid the realities of life. Like every mother, whenever Mary looked at her Son, she thought of his future. Surely, she kept pondering in her heart the words spoken to her in the Temple by the elderly Simeon: «This child is destined for the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed, so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too» (*Lk* 2:34-35). At the foot of the cross, she witnessed the passion and death of Jesus, her innocent son. Overwhelmed with grief, she nonetheless renewed her «fiat», never abandoning her hope and trust in God. In this way, Mary cooperated for our sake in the fulfilment of all that her Son had foretold in announcing that he would have to «undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again» (*Mk* 8:31). In the travail of that sorrow, offered in

love, Mary became our Mother, the Mother of Hope. It is not by chance that popular piety continues to invoke the Blessed Virgin as *Stella Maris*, a title that bespeaks the sure hope that, amid the tempests of this life, the Mother of God comes to our aid, sustains us and encourages us to persevere in hope and trust”.

(FRANCIS, *Spes non confundit*, 24)



LISTEN TO THE WORD

Let us listen to the Word of the Lord
from the Gospel of Luke
(2:18-20.49-51)

All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary **treasured up** all these things and **pondered them in her heart**... And he asked them: “Why were you searching for me? Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?”. But they did not understand what he was saying to them. Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

ENTER THE WORD

The two verbs used here by Luke both contain the same idea of confrontation, association, comparison. **Mary's interior attitude in the face of events leads her to constantly discover the fulfillment of the Scriptures**... As a true *Lectio divina*, we make

this attitude of Mary our own, the attitude of one who compares and brings everything together in the “deposit of her heart” ... At her school we discover how **all paths intersect and converge** towards a heart which is at the same time the heart of Scripture, the heart of Mary, and the heart of the Church...

(FRANÇOIS CASSINGENA-TREVEDY, *Quand la parole prend feu*, 39)

RESPOND TO THE WORD

From Psalm 1

Blessed be the one
who does not walk in step with the wicked,
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,

**but whose delight
is in the law of the Lord,
and who meditates on his law day and night.**

That person is like a tree planted
by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither -
whatever they do prospers.

BE CHALLENGED BY THE WORD

- I remember some “hard, mysterious” events in my life ...
- As I experienced them, did I turn to the Word to enlighten me?
- Did I experience that Mary “comes to our aid, sustains us and encourages us to persevere in hope and trust”?



PRAY THE WORD

Holy Father, who on the journey of the Church, pilgrim on earth, you have placed the Blessed Virgin Mary as a luminous sign, through her intercession sustain our faith and revive our hope, so that no obstacle makes us deviate from the path that leads to salvation. Through Christ our Lord.

BE ACCOMPANIED BY MONTFORT

Hymn 7, 5-9: The solidity of Hope

I love you as my handiwork,
I am your God, I am your King;
Hope in me. This is the homage
You should render to me alone.

I do not want you to perish,
I am your friend, I am all good,
I want you to change heart
And beseech for forgiveness.

O Christian, God himself is your
father, Hope in his charity.

A great fool is he who despairs
Of his father's kindness.

Jesus is your faithful friend,
Your savior and your bridegroom.
It is I, he said, I am calling you,
Fear nothing and have confidence.

Mary is your mother fair
And the sinner's haven.
Hope everything from her prayer,
Expect all things from her favor.