

Reflection 15th August 2020

First Profession Vows: Neer Liandoo David

Br. Emmanuel Aminentia (Province Leader)

If a small child hurts his finger, he runs to his mother crying. The mother has to kiss the finger and it is well again. Instinctively children know that their mother loves them hence the first person to go for consolation.

In the same way, we look at Mary as our heavenly mother. She is the mother of us all. As Jesus was dying on the cross, he gave us his mother to be our mother also. We look on her as our mother who loves us and who watches over us. She is the mother to whom we can tell every joy and every sorrow.

We have examples of so many people who look up to Mary as Mother, even those of us here do.

The reason for our great joy today as we celebrate Mary's Assumption into heaven is because we are celebrating a great privilege given to our heavenly mother.

Mary's greatness lies in the fact that she was humble before God and surrendered herself to God. Her words to the angel at the annunciation are words that we need to meditate every now and then, *'Let it be done to me according to your word.'*

It was the will of God acting in Mary and Elizabeth that lead them to prophesied when they met.

Mary as the first evangelizer brought Christ to Elizabeth and her unborn son, John the Baptist.

Through the presence of Jesus, the women praise the Lord for the great works done for them, while the unborn John the Baptist leapt for joy in Elizabeth's womb.

While Elizabeth was the first to hear Mary's voice, John was the first to be aware of the grace.

Elizabeth heard with the ears of the body, but her child leapt for joy at the meaning of the mystery.

Elizabeth was aware of Mary's presence, but John was aware of the Lord's presence.

Thus a woman aware of a woman's presence, while the forerunner aware of the presence of salvation.

The women speak of the grace they have received while the children are active in secret, unfolding the mystery of love with the help of their mothers, who prophesy by the spirit of their sons.”

Zechariah prophesied when his tongue was loosened (Lk 1: 68 – 79). Simeon prophesied (Lk 2: 34 – 35), and so did the prophetess Anna (Lk 2: 38). However, one thing unites these three – all of them in one way or the other are connected to the temple. Zechariah was a priest (Lk 1: 5); Simeon was in the temple (Lk 2: 27); Anna never left the temple (Lk 2: 37). The place of the prophecy of Mary and Elizabeth is however quite different. It is in the home of Zechariah and Elizabeth out in the Judean countryside.

When we surrender ourselves to God does not mean a perpetual spiritual honeymoon. There would be challenges but we need to let the will of God be done, just as happened in the life of Mary and Jesus.

The 1st reading talks about the dragon waiting to devour the child. As soon as Mary said yes to the will of God the dragon begun laying snares against that yes.

So it is going to be for you, David. The yes you said before formation, the yes you will say today and the yes you will say in the future would all be a good recipe for the dragon to start laying snares on your way.