

Reflection Tuesday Week 4 - The Presentation 2021

Jesus was a gift of God to Mary and Joseph. They go to the temple like all married couples, and offer their gift back to God in thanksgiving. With God's gifts comes responsibility and duty. We have a duty to nurture that gifts God has given us so that they are ready to fulfil the mission God has prepared from them since their conception. That Mary and Joseph did this so well is seen through Jesus' life, death and resurrection. He fulfilled the name he had been given, Jesus, meaning Saviour. How did he grow in wisdom, except through his parents! How did God show his favour, but through his parents! In one of his letters our founder Emmanuel d'Alzon wrote: *(slightly adapted)*

We celebrate the feast of the Our Lord's Presentation in the Temple. This is his consecration for the sacrifice on the cross. Renew yourself on this day with an unconditional consecration to everything that the Divine Saviour may ask of you. Offer yourself as a victim to his love and undertake all your actions in the great spirit of such a victim. Oh! Why don't you enter more deeply into all the mysteries of the Saviour's life? If you allow him, he will help you; but for that to happen it is necessary to have very great humility, a deep disregard for yourself, and a perfect disposition to accept every difficulty that may come your way, from the Divine Master. Tread this path gently but also courageously.

- For our sake Jesus was presented to the Lord so that we will learn to offer ourselves to God. (Thomas Aquinas)
- Christ willed to be offered in this way as a sign of humility; so that by the merit of humility Jesus might teach us to become worthy of Divine favour. (Thomas Aquinas)
- This is a meeting between the young, who are full of joy in observing the Law of the Lord, and the elderly who are full of joy in the action of the Holy Spirit. It is a unique encounter between observance and prophecy, where young people are the observers and the elderly are prophets! In fact, if we think carefully, observance of the Law is animated by the Spirit and the prophecy moves forward along the path traced by the Law. Who, more than Mary, is full of the Holy Spirit? Who more than she is docile to its action? May the Virgin Mary help us contemplate the gift of God for us every day in Jesus, and let us be involved by Him in the movement of the gift, with joyful amazement, so that our whole life will echo praise to God in the service of our brothers and sisters. (Pope Francis)

Three sons left home and became successful businessmen. Getting back together, they discussed the gifts they were able to give their elderly mother.

First son, *"I built a big house for our mother."*

Second said, *"I sent her a Lexus with a driver."*

Third son, *"I've beaten both of you. You know how much Mom enjoys reading the Bible? Now that she can't see very well, I sent her a remarkable parrot that recites the entire Bible. It took 12 years to teach him. He's one of a kind. Mama just has to name the chapter and verse, and the parrot recites it."*

Their Mom sent the following letters:

"Milton, the house you built is so huge. I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house."

"Gerald, I am too old to travel. I stay most of the time at home, so I rarely use the Mercedes and the driver is so rude!"

"Dearest Donald, you have the good sense to know what your mother likes. The chicken you sent was absolutely delicious!"