

Reflection Tuesday Week 33 The Presentation of Mary 2023

In unity with Eastern Christianity, and in commemorating the dedication in 543 of the New Basilica of Saint Mary, built next to the Temple at Jerusalem, this feast celebrates Mary's "dedication" of herself to God from her infancy, inspired by the Holy Spirit, whose grace had filled her ever since her immaculate conception: -

Like Mary we are presented to God in a special way in our baptism when we, too, are inspired by the Holy Spirit whose grace fills our lives. We become dedicated temples of God.

It was on this feast day that the founder of the Assumptionists left the earth and was taken up into heaven. Having made Mary a patron of the Assumptionists, it is possible that Mary asked her Son to take our founder, Emmanuel d'Alzon, into heaven.

Emmanuel chose Mary as a prime model for us. He wrote: *"Like Mary we need to be profoundly persuaded of our inherent weakness and of the loving solicitude of our heavenly Father for us. Otherwise, we limit God's gifts. We need to remember that the gifts of knowledge and love that comprise our happiness cannot be imposed from without. They must arise and grow within our hearts. Jesus does this when He sends His Spirit. We know that we are weak; but we also know that God is almighty and loving, eager to help us provided we open our minds and our hearts to His gifts. This removes our pretences, our pride whose inflation would occupy the "space" which God's graces could otherwise fill.*

Fr. d'Alzon continues by begging us: *to study throughout our lives the admirable progress of the Blessed Virgin as a disciple of Jesus. She listens to His word; she shares in each of His mysteries; she contemplates the smallest detail in the life of her divine Son. In the Annunciation God reveals that He is showering graces upon Mary to the point of her becoming the Mother of her Saviour and God. The prior condition to this is that Mary lays no claim to being anything on her own, without God. That condition is one that we too must recognize, in order to make way for God's gifts."*

May the Blessed Mother come into your life today with

a special blessing for you and your families.

May you always be grateful for
the Blessed Mother as she watches over you.

Our Lady of Good Council **Pray for us**

Our Lady Immaculate **Pray for us**

Our Lady Immaculate **Pray for us**

Our lady of the Assumption **Pray for us**

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God,

that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Grant us, O Lord, health of mind and body

and through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary,

be delivered from present sorrow

and enjoy eternal happiness with her,

through Christ Our Lord. Amen.