

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

1st January 2021



Motto 2021

***Touched by the grace of God...,
we turn entirely to God.***

Path of Mary

Dear Sisters and Associates,

Ours is journey of spirit, and at different moments, our God invites us to pause and listen with the ear of the heart once more. We have been called to let the spirit of Mary, Mother of Jesus live in us.

Much has changed in our world this year and the suffering of so many, to whom we have been present in prayer and person, has made us even more aware of the fragility of all; and the need for our surrender to God – a surrender that, once made, frees us to be for the other in ways beyond our imagining.

We may feel helpless and yet, it is within that very vulnerability that we are most at one with the God we serve, the Love outpoured on Calvary as Jesus gifted His Spirit to us. So too, are we one with Mary, his Mother, Disciple of Courage, Woman of Solidarity who did not focus on herself and her own pain but stood as witness to the love that is real only when one puts the needs of another before one's own.

Gerald May, psychologist and spiritual writer once wrote: *Hope is an elusive thing and occasionally it must come to us with pain; but hope is a child of grace and grace cannot be stopped.*

Many years before our Mother, Ven, Mary Potter had learnt that same lesson about grace from the very fabric of her own life and shared with us that suffering is the touchstone of love. She knew that from the very beginning and urged us in the Path of

Mary, from where our Motto for 2021 calls in Chapter One, to open, to receive, to rejoice and to love, in grace. To let go of what has been, to make a new beginning and to surrender to Love. Is now, perhaps, another moment of Annunciation – of invitation for each one of us?

Grace recognizes the gift of the God who touches our life and spirit so deeply that we can do no other but share that grace with others through an outpouring of love, in prayer always and presence when possible. This is our call:

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The challenges of the last year call us to own our very vulnerability, just as Mary did when, visited by an Angel, she was willing to say yes to the unknown.

The Mother of God, whose spirit has enfolded us in the journey of 2020, remains with us, as long as we come in vulnerability, willing to be touched and transformed by a power beyond ourselves, by grace, just as she was. Are we, like Mary, willing to walk into the unknown? To let our vulnerability be known? To accept the uncertainty of the future? Are we willing to walk the journey in its fullness,

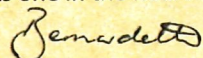
from Nazareth to Calvary and beyond? As individuals and as a Congregation?

Jesus and Mary invite us this year to be open to the grace of God that can transform, heal and make whole, perhaps in ways we cannot imagine and may not choose; if only we are willing to be entirely vulnerable: to be touched by God—the God who waits for us to turn into the Divine embrace. We are invited to recognize our helplessness and to rejoice in the grace which enfolds us: for when we are weak we are, indeed, made strong in the God who loves. It has been said: *There is deep beauty in the darkness, in the unknowing, in the indescribable, if only we can open ourselves to its purpose.* — LaVera Crawley.

May we know ourselves so beloved by God that he whispers to us a gentle word of grace, calling us into the unknown and unknowing; and may we, in Venerable Mary's words be

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As one in the heart of Mary,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Remedios" with a stylized flourish at the end.

On behalf of Congregational Leadership