

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
1st January 2020



Madonna of the Fir Trees

Motto 2020

"Let My Mother's spirit live in you"

Dear Sisters and Associates,

When heart speaks to heart, one opens oneself to be transformed by the tender caress of love. Over the past year, our hearts have been attuned to the heart of Jesus.

This year, we are invited to listen again to the words of His heart.

In the short Note 33, in Obedience Notes Volume 4, Venerable Mary Potter shares some of her heart to heart conversation with Jesus. She invites us to hear the words of Jesus which encouraged her and shaped the spirit of our Little Company of Mary:

***"Let My Mother's spirit
live in you."***

That same invitation is offered to each one of us.

As Pope Francis says,

*When faith makes a place for the Mother of God,
we never lose sight of the centre: the Lord,
for Mary never points to herself but to Jesus
and our brothers and sisters, for Mary is mother ...
Mother of God, teach us to see life as you do.*

Surely, we are invited to walk with the Mary of the Visitation, to carry Christ to the lonely, unsure, sick and in need, dying, be it in body, spirit or soul; to greet the Christ within each person with that same love and tenderness of the Mother who was willing to do all she could to meet the needs of another.

Is not our call to hold prayerfully, with Mary of the Presentation, the reality of life? Only when we are prepared to engage with reality – its joys and sorrows, can we respond as God would have us and live into the future. We have been called to be for others as Mary was for her Son on Calvary – and that call takes us into the joys and sorrows of all we meet, in prayer or presence. Ours is a call to be the icon of the Mother in person for a world that is suffering.

Are we not invited to be with Mary of Cana, women of faith, hope and certitude if we only “do whatever He tells you”?

Ven. Mary Potter invited us to answer the call to be outpoured Love in the spirit of Mary. It is our particular grace and privilege to take our place with the Mary of Calvary in a never-ending act of love, lived again and again in the Calvary moments of our world and its people. It is in lives shaped to the heart of the Mother of Jesus that we truly find our unity, can depth the reality of our one heart and the possibilities inherent in our spirit, for love of the God of Love.

In Jesus words to Ven. Mary Potter, we hear a whisper to our own hearts. If we choose to let the spirit of the Mother of God shape and reshape us, and act from that same spirit of tenderness and compassion, then we too, like Ven. Mary Potter, will give joy to the Mother of God, which as Jesus

says: "is the joy of my heart". Let us now invite Mary, Mother of the God of Love, into our hearts anew and ponder with her, what it is to bear that Love to those we meet.

As our Holy Father reminds us,

Let us allow ourselves to be embraced. From Mary's gaze, we now turn to her heart, she took everything to heart; she embraced everything, events both good and bad. And she pondered all these things; she brought them before God. This was her secret. In the same way, she now takes to heart the life of each of us: she wants to embrace our every situation and to present it to God.

Mary was prepared to be surprised by the God who entered so unexpectedly and completely into her life for the sake of a world that was in dire need of tenderness. May we too listen to the echo of Jesus' words in our own hearts, embracing the needs of our world:

***"Let My Mother's spirit
live in you."***

As one in the heart of Mary,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gemma" followed by a stylized flourish.

On behalf of Congregational Leadership