

Homily
Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
May 31, 2024

Oh, joy of joys. The final and perfect covenant. And it all began with Mary's Fiat; her 'Yes' that fulfilled God's most instrumental piece in the puzzle of Salvation History. Yes, today we celebrate the Visitation, that time when Mary went into the Hill Country to visit her relative Elizabeth. At Mary's arrival, the baby in Elizabeth's womb leaped for joy! Elizabeth attributed this joy to Mary. Mary, in her humility and faith in God, proclaims her own joy and praise of God.

Magnificat comes from the Latin, meaning "magnify," "glorify," "exalt," as in "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." She places all praise and glory to God, recounting God's mercy, "He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation," His omnipotence, "He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly," and compassionate judgement, "He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty."

The Jews, at the time of Jesus' birth, were under Roman empirical law. There was a great deal of tension between them. Also, the Jewish people were beginning to believe that the Messiah would never come; they were discouraged. And what they expected was a political leader, not a spiritual one. Jesus was not what they were expecting. But Mary had faith.

Mary trusted in the Word of God. She trusted God would keep His promise. She did not fully understand God's plan, any more than we understand God's plan. But that's the point – faith. We must have faith. God calls us to faith; faith in Him, faith in His plan for us. Mary had great faith.

We can take great comfort in Mary's faith. Mary's faith was never shaken. She remained faithful even in times of great sorrow. She suffered her Seven Sorrows as Mother of God, and yet her faith never wavered.

We suffer our own sorrows. Every day we encounter all sorts of struggles. Even the greatest among us who demonstrate great faith suffer. That is our lot in this world. We must never lose faith. And when our faith is challenged, we can go to Mary who will intercede for us to her Son. Ask Mary for anything. She understands. She knows. She experienced more suffering than we can imagine and she understands our suffering more than we can imagine.

Mary trusts in God. We, through her intercession, can trust in God. Have faith!