Homes of Light 3

Caring for Life

Generating New Life

A close up of a sign

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**Mary, transparent to the Light – 2 of 3**

In Mary, we can find a veritable fount of inspiration for negotiating the new times in which we are living, for “*the light of hope (to) never fail*”. I want to stress the idea of forming homes of light, following up on the invitation of the XXII General Chapter. The desire for our communities and families to be real homes requires us to become more conscious that the light we want others to see is coming from beyond us.

What thoughts might have run through Mary’s mind after she dared to say a bold and confident yes to God at the Annunciation (cf Lk 1:38)? Her life plans changed completely in the blink of an eye. I think that only a heart that was free and on fire with love would be capable of accepting a situation that was so novel, unfamiliar and with so many unknowns… Immediately, she rushed to the hills to meet with Elizabeth (cf Lk 1:39). And just a few months later she gave birth to Jesus (Lk 2:7). We can also imagine what feelings invaded Mary’s heart as her time came, with the fear and distress at not having a suitable place to deliver her child (cf Lk 2:7). She was able to accept this new reality thanks to her heart being free and full of the warmth of God.

This is an idea that frequently comes to my mind: imagining the heart of Mary, so free and full of God, and therefore, transparent to God’s light. In Mary, the light of God could be seen, a light streaming out from within. She believed that what the Lord had told her would be fulfilled and so she was called blessed when she visited Elizabeth (cf Lk 1:45). She believed in the message, she believed in the Word of God. She retained this trust all through her life, even in its darkest and most painful moments.

The questions for us today are:

“*Who is God calling us to be*?” and “*What is God calling us to do*?”

The reflection from *Homes of Light*, Br Ernesto Sánchez Barba (Superior General).

<https://champagnat.org/en/circulares/homes-of-light-caring-for-life-generating-new-life/>

O Mary, our Good Mother,

You shine continuously on our journey

as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,

who, at the foot of the cross,

were united with Jesus' suffering,

and persevered in your faith.

Our Ordinary Resource,

you know our needs,

and we know that you will provide,

so that, as at Cana in Galilee,

joy and celebration may return

after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,

to conform ourselves to the will of the Father

and to do what Jesus tells us.

For he took upon himself our suffering,

and burdened himself with our sorrows

to bring us, through the cross,

to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

(Based on the prayer by Pope Francis)

Mary, our Good Mother, pray for us.

St Joseph, pray for us.

St Marcellin Champagnat, pray for us.

**Champagnat Marist Spirituality and Charism:**

**God’s Presence and Love ✠ Trust in God ✠ Love of Jesus and His Gospel**

**Presence ✠ Simplicity ✠ Family Spirit ✠ Love of Work**

**In the Way of Mary**