

**DAY 4****Mary's Pilgrimage of Faith**

Yesterday, we learned that there's a key to Mary's innermost reality, a key to understanding her faith — the blessing of Elizabeth: "Blessed is she who believed that what was spoken to her by the Lord would be fulfilled." Now, while those words firstly refer to the Annunciation and the moment when Mary believed the angel's words that she would be the mother of the Son of God, they also refer to her whole life of faith — or, as St. John Paul II puts it, her "pilgrimage of faith."

Now, contrary to overly pious belief, Mary didn't constantly have angels waiting on her at her home in Nazareth, helping with the housework and changing Jesus' diapers. Nor did she hear about the Child Jesus going around town changing water into apple juice and multiplying cookies. Rather, the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph had an ordinary life of work, recreation, and prayer. In other words, Mary (and her husband, Joseph) walked by faith and not by sight, as St. John Paul II makes clear:

During the years of Jesus' hidden life in the house at Nazareth, Mary's life too is "hid with Christ in God" (cf. Col 3:3) through faith ... [She] is in contact with the truth about her Son only in faith and through faith! She is therefore blessed, because "she has believed," and continues to believe day after day ... during the years of the hidden life at Nazareth.

So, the hidden life of the Holy Family — all that time from Jesus' childhood and adolescence that we hear almost nothing about in Sacred Scripture — was not only hidden from us but, in a certain sense, was hidden from Mary, too! I mean, she lived her "contact with the truth about her Son" in the darkness of faith, a faith that was "linked with a sort of 'night of faith.'" In other words, her pilgrimage of faith came with "a particular heaviness of heart," because it had to be lived under "a kind of 'veil,' a veil that prevented Mary (and Joseph) from fully grasping that mystery in the midst of which they daily lived (see Lk 2:48-50). And so, the Pope concludes: Thus, even his Mother, to whom had been revealed most completely the mystery of his divine sonship, lived in intimacy with this mystery only through faith! Living side by side with her Son under the same roof, and faithfully persevering "in her union with her Son," she "advanced in her pilgrimage of faith" ... And so, it was during Christ's public life too (cf. Mk 3:21-35) that day by day there was fulfilled in her the blessing uttered by Elizabeth at the Visitation: "Blessed is she who believed."

Alright, but what was it that Mary believed specifically as she lived "under the same roof" with Jesus and during his public life? Of course, we know that at the Annunciation she believed God's Word, hoping against hope that she would become the mother of the Son of God through a virginal conception. But what else did she believe that merited a blessing? Well, her thinking may have gone something like this: Here is a great king! Yet he's wrapped in swaddling clothes and resting in a poor manger? Yes, I believe.

- Here is the Son of God! ... Yet he's silently nursing at my breast? Yes, I believe.
- Here is a king whose reign will last forever! ... Yet our rulers were just seeking to stone him? Yes, I believe.
- Yes, I believe everything that God promised about Jesus will be fulfilled, even if everything about him is a "sign of contradiction" (Lk 2:34).

Truly, day by day through the hidden life in Nazareth and during Jesus' public ministry, the blessing of Elizabeth was fulfilled in Mary. She remained steadfast in faith as she

held onto the words spoken to her by the Lord and pondered them in her heart. But her pilgrimage of faith had not yet met its ultimate test. We'll hear about that terrible trial tomorrow.

Today's Prayer:

Come, Holy Spirit, fire of mercy.

Help me to believe in God and his love for me,  
even when life seems meaningless, routine, and empty.

My Note: The author of this Consecration does not know the Book of Heaven, for Our Lady and Jesus reveals to us in those Volumes, and in the Virgin Mary in the Kingdom of the Divine Will book, that He confided everything to Our Lady. Read below:

### **Book of Heaven, Volume 19, March 9, 1926**

Jesus: "...after so many years, My Love wanted to gamble once again—with My Immaculate Mama. In Her Our gamble did not fail; it had its full effect; and, that is why We gave Her everything and confided everything to Her. Indeed, a kind of contest began: We to give and She to receive. Now you must know that Our Love also wants to take this gamble with you, so that, united with the Heavenly Mother, you will let Us win Our gamble, by letting Us recover from the failure that the first man, Adam, gained for Us.

### **The Virgin Mary in the Kingdom of the Divine Will: Day 25**

My dear child, listen to another trait of love which my dear Jesus gave Me in this house of Nazareth. God, when He does a work, does not leave it suspended nor in emptiness, but always searches for a creature where He can enclose and rest his work; otherwise, there would be the danger that God would expose his works to uselessness, which cannot be. Therefore, my dear Son deposited his works, his words, his pains, everything in Me. He deposited even his breath in his Mother. And, when retired in our little house, He took his sweet speech and narrated to Me all the Gospels which He should preach in public, the Sacraments He should institute. He confided everything to Me; and, depositing all in Me, He constituted Me perennial canal and fountain because from Me his life and all his goods must go out for the benefit of all creatures.