

LEARNING TO LOVE – JOYFUL MYSTERIES

1st Joyful mystery: **The annunciation of the Archangel S. Gabriel to the Virgin Mary.**

The Gospel reveals to us the message that the archangel addresses the Virgin Mary in the name of God: “Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus... therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God” (Lk 1, 31 and 35). “God is Love” (1 Jn 4, 16) and Jesus, being the Son of God, is the Incarnated Love. He becomes man through Mary to save what is most precious in me: my ability to love. Oh Mary, I join myself to you throughout the prayer of the rosary to receive from Jesus his charity, which is strength to love, so that it may penetrate and transform my weak and limited love.

2nd Joyful mystery: **The visitation of the Virgin Mary to her cousin S. Elisabeth.**

The Gospel tells us that after Jesus incarnated himself in the womb of Mary, “she set out and travelled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah”, to the house of Elizabeth (Lk 1, 39-40) to share with her the great news of the coming of the Saviour of humanity, and to assist her cousin during the last three months of her pregnancy. Jesus wants to communicate to all the divine charity of his Mother, and to do so he uses the good that we do to one another. Oh Mary, I want to share the love I have received from Jesus, doing well to those whom I live close to.

3rd Joyful mystery: **The birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.**

The evangelist writes, “While (Mary and Joseph) were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn” (Lk 2, 6-7). Jesus chose to manifest his love to me throughout the poverty of his birth: right from the beginning of his coming amongst us; He is excluded from the inn with Mary and Joseph, but despite all, He continues to love us. Oh Mary, help me mature in my love; educate me, so that I may love in a humble way, without expecting anything in return.

4th Joyful mystery: **The presentation of Jesus at the Temple.**

The evangelist writes that Mary and Joseph brought the child Jesus to Jerusalem and offered him to God in the Temple to accomplish what “is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord’” (Lk 2, 22-23). As He was offered to God his Father, Jesus invites me to offer myself to Him, as I am; with all my limits, weaknesses, defects, wounds, everything that depresses me and all that I hide from others. Jesus is the only one who loves me as I am. He wants me to offer myself to Him because He wants to transform me with his divine charity. Oh Mary, offer me to Jesus and make his love penetrate me to the deepest of my being.

5th Joyful mystery: **Finding the Child Jesus in the Temple.**

The evangelist Luke writes that after Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the Temple of Jerusalem after a three-day anguishing search, “He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them... And Jesus advanced (in) wisdom and age and favour before God and man” (Lk 2, 51-52). The Son of god wanted to be born, to live, grow up and become an adult in a family. His example shows us that the family is sacred in God’s eyes and that it is vital for our healthy growth. Therefore, the family is the first place where we are called to live love. Oh Mary, with your help I want to strengthen and deepen the bonds that unite me with my family.