



Encountering the Light of Faith

Lumen Fidei Online Retreat: Day 6

Retreat Guide



Day 6 Theme:

Marian Faith: Becoming a beacon of the Trinity

Pope Francis, quoting one of the early Christian martyrs, describes Mary as one who, "receiving the message of the angel, conceived 'faith and joy'" (*Lumen Fidei*, 58). Upon learning that she is "Mother of the Lord", however, Mary doesn't keep to herself, but goes to visit Elizabeth, who was pregnant with John the Baptist. In other words, Mary shows us, her children, the way of service - the sure sign that faith has, indeed, borne fruit in joy. For when faith is genuine and fruitful, it becomes a light to others - a beacon of God's love.

That said, Mary's isn't a "cheap" faith, but rather a "costly" faith - a faith that remains true not only in times of joy, but most especially during times of sorrow. Just try to imagine the agony of Mary, as she stands and beholds her own son, tortured and crucified. How can faith endure such testing? And yet, Mary's faith endures, the "yes" of her faith to the Angel Gabriel is the same "yes" of faith that takes Mary to Elizabeth, and keeps her at the cross! Thus Mary "is the perfect icon of faith; as Saint Elizabeth would say, 'Blessed is she who believed'" (LF 58).

Let us turn to Mary, our Mother in Christ, and ask her to teach us the way of service, the way of sharing our faith through love even when it costs us everything.

Prayer to Mary, Mother of the Church and Mother of Our Faith *(Lumen Fidei, 60)*

Mother, help our faith!

*Open our ears to hear God's word and to recognize his voice and call.
Awaken in us a desire to follow in his footsteps, to go forth from our own
land and to receive his promise. Help us to be touched by his love, that we
may touch him in faith. Help us to entrust ourselves fully to him and to
believe in his love, especially at times of trial,
beneath the shadow of the cross, when our faith is called to mature.
Sow in our faith the joy of the Risen One. Remind us that those who believe
are never alone. Teach us to see all things with the eyes of Jesus, that he may
be light for our path. And may this light of faith always increase in us, until
the dawn of that undying day which is Christ himself, your Son, our Lord!*
Amen.

Day 6:

Space for Reflection

1. What role does Mary play in your experience and journey of faith?
2. Imagine Mary at prayer. How might Mary teach you the ways of prayer, the way to grow in faith and experience joy in prayer?
3. How does the example of Mary sharing her faith and joy with Elizabeth invite you to share your faith as a beacon of God's love with your family, friends, neighbors, and others?
4. Reflect on Mary at the foot of the Cross. How does Mary's example help your faith to mature even in times of trial, and enlighten you with the wisdom to help others' faith mature?