

Visitation of the Virgin Mary

Romans 12:9-16

Isaiah 12:2-6

Luke 1:39-56

A child was playing in the park.

After running and playing around he got thirsty and walk to the nearest water fountain.

He was carrying in his hand a bag of cookies that his mother gave to him.

Suddenly when he was turning from the water fountain eating his cookies, he noticed an older homeless woman on one of the benches.

The boy smiled at the woman who in response smiled back at him.

The child took a cookie from his bag and offered it to her.

The woman smiled gratefully at him.

The boy decided to give her another cookie.

The woman invited him to set next to her.

After sharing his last cookie, the boy full of joy hugged her and returned to his mother.

When his mother saw him full of joy and smiling she asked him why he was so happy.

The boy responded:

I met God at the park today.

I met God and God smiled and hugged me.@"

Then he replied:

I did not know that God looks like an old woman with a beautiful smile.@"

The woman also returned to her shelter full of joy and smiling.

When her companions saw her joy, they asked what was going on with her.

To their questions, she responded:

I met God at the park today.

God shared his cookies with me.

God gave me a beautiful smile and a great hug.@"

Then she replied:

I did not know that God is young and friendly.@"

In the Gospel today, two women also recognize God's presence through their encounter.

Luke tells us that after Mary conceived Jesus by the Holy Spirit, she went to visit her cousin Elizabeth in haste.

Then Luke says:

When she greeted Elizabeth, Elizabeth becomes infused with the Holy Spirit.

What we see here is that Mary was bringing God to Elizabeth.

The God and Savior in whom she finds joy.

The God in whom we too can find joy.

The God whose mercy is from age to age on those fear Him.

The God who became incarnate, first in Mary's heart and then in her womb by faith.

The God whose presence is recognized by Elizabeth in the pregnancy of her cousin, a teenage girl.

We too, like Mary and Elizabeth, are called to be open to the Spirit of God; to become disciples of Christ.

Like Mary we are called to conceive Christ in our hearts by faith; to bring Christ to the Elizabeths that we meet in our life.

We are called to be messengers of hope, compassion, and love for our families and friends, for our community and for our society.

Like Elizabeth we are called to recognize the presence of God in the least expected people,

in the least expected places and
in the last expected situations.

We are called to recognize the presence of God in the joy of our family gathering;

in the unborn baby;

in the poor;

in the person who is living with AIDS.

We are called to recognize the hiding God in the outcast of our society.

We are called to recognize Christ's presence in this Eucharistic celebration.

The Christ, who like in Mary, wants to become incarnate in us today.

We are called like Mary and Elizabeth,

like the child and the homeless woman to recognize God in each other.

To show the genuine love that Saint Paul talks about in the letter to the Romans.

Mary assures us that we are not alone in this mission.

Mary shows us that with Christ in our life we can bring healing and hope, love and joy to others.

Now with confidence, we can approach the table of the Lord and become Christ bearers like Mary.

To become what we will receive in this bread and wine, Christ for others.

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