

The Holy Face of Jesus Newsletter/

V log

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MARY'S LIFETIME OF WAITING...

Last Thursday's feast, 21st November, celebrated Mary's Presentation in the temple, her "dedication" of herself to God from her infancy, inspired by the Holy Ghost, whose grace had filled her ever since her immaculate conception.

Saint Alphonsus Liguori, an 18th-century Doctor of the Church who wrote extensively on the Blessed Virgin Mary, offers this description of her presentation in the Temple, which mirrors the apocryphal gospel accounts:



"The Presentation of the Virgin Mary" by Titian

'Having barely reached the age of three years, the holy child Mary entreated her parents that she might be placed in the temple according to the promise they had made. The appointed day having arrived, the immaculate young Virgin left Nazareth with St. Joachim and St. Anne, accompanied by a host of angels attending that holy child destined to become the mother of their Creator...Upon their arrival at the temple in Jerusalem, the holy child turned to her parents. Kneeling, she kissed their hands, asked for their blessing, and then, without looking back, ascended the steps of the temple. There, renouncing the world and all it could offer her, she wholly offered and consecrated herself to God.

From then on, Mary's life in the temple was a continuous exercise of love, offering her entire being to her Lord...As a young virgin in the temple, Mary did nothing but pray, desiring to be the servant of the blessed Virgin chosen to be the mother of God.' (*Glories of Mary*, On the Feast of the Presentation of Mary). For those in the married state who perhaps have had pangs aspiring to religious life, fear not because one can always imitate the Blessed Virgin Mary. Her's was a lifetime of waiting and silent adoration.



Mary consoles Eve by Sr Grace Remington OCSO

Is there anyone who enjoys waiting?

Our human nature rebels against all forms of it: there is the mundane waiting we must endure in lines, in traffic, in sport, at petrol stations, bus stops, doctors' offices; the anxious waiting for a resolution, a phone call, a result; for the end of sufferings or a healing; the joyful waiting for a message, a job offer, a postal delivery, birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, news or even a marriage proposal! Then there is the combination of all these types of waiting which is of a mother waiting for the birth of her child. Our weak human nature does not like to wait. We want to "get there" right away, to "know" right away, for something to be "done" right away. Waiting requires patience and most of humanity has very little. But wait we must, and since everything in life is permitted by God solely for our good, **waiting must be very good for us** since we spend so much of our lives doing it!

The ultimate good is to see the Face of God and therefore Mary must have waited like no one has ever waited before! Mary, for the love of God, waited in patience, humility, faith, charity, in hope, and in supreme fortitude. She did this by fixing the eyes of her soul on Jesus, her Redeemer and God—Whose Face she could not yet see within her womb. Mary's uncomplaining acceptance of God's Will—to seek His Face and only His Face—bore the most sublime fruit in Mary's soul of divine PEACE, which the world can never take away. So, this Advent and in all times of waiting, wait with Mary, and her reward will also be ours...to see the Face of her Son! *"I will wait for the Lord who hath hid His Face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for Him."* (Isaiah 8)

Prayer: *Most just indeed it is, O holy Mother of God, that we should unite in that ardent waiting which you had to undergo to see Him, concealed for 9 months in your chaste womb; to know the features of this Son of the heavenly Father, who is also your own; to come to that blissful hour of His birth, which will give glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to men of good-will. Amen.*

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Become familiar with the Holy Face devotion, through books, videos and talks. Pray the prayers for your priests to come to know the Holy Face. Embed the prayers in your parish by praying them all in one or recite just one of the five prayers daily over five days e.g. Mon to Fri.. Organise events: video showings, book clubs, prayer meetings onsite and online. Contact us at: info@theholysface.com and let us know if we can help.

For an overview of the devotion go to our website right:	www.theholysface.com
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Human Life International Ireland, The Guadalupe Centre, Main Street,
Knock, Claremorris, Co.Mayo, F12 K709 **To unsubscribe click [here](#):**