

AS OUR LADY LET US BE ON A JOURNEY TO GO IN HASTE WHEREVER THE SPIRIT LEAD US

Words of Mother Adela, Foundress SCTJM on May 13th, 2016
In the First Profession of Vows of Sr. Monica Bernadette and Sr. Molly Joyce

Dear Bishop Isern, Monsignors, Fathers, Deacons and Seminarians. Dear religious sisters, dear families of the sisters, dear Apostles, and Friends.

Today, with the whole Church, we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady's Visitation to her cousin Elizabeth, who in her old age had miraculously conceived a child, the one who would prepare the way of the Lord, would prepare the path of the Redeemer into the heart of men. It is such a beautiful gift that this Feast falls also during the Novena of Pentecost. We are celebrating the Centenary of the visitation of Our Lady in Fatima and 50 years of the particular outpouring of the Holy Spirit, through what we called the Charismatic Renewal. Our Lady and the Holy Spirit seem to be calling us to open our hearts to Jesus, the Redeemer of Men and the Savior of the world.



Before the event of the Visitation, we read in the previous passage of the Gospel, the Annunciation, that Our Lady was overshadowed by the Holy Spirit and by his power, conceived in her virginal womb the Eternal Word of God, who became man to enter into human history to save us from the slavery of sin, to reveal with his actions, words and gestures, the love of the Father; to touch the broken and wounded humanity with his healing hands, to be close to the sufferings and trials of men and also embracing them as his own.... In Our Lady's womb, the Word became flesh by the power of the Holy Spirit, to teach us the truth that will make us free, to show us the true essence of the kingdom of God, to teach us how to live in that Kingdom, the physiognomy of those who belong to his kingdom and also, to choose those who will be totally his, to live his way of life and to continue the mission to establish this kingdom of love in the world.... He became man to offer himself as a living sacrifice, taking upon himself our sins and give us a new and abundant life of total freedom, freedom that comes from the potency of love, love being the gift total self-donation for the good of others.

Our Lady, was overshadowed, filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and this power brought about the Incarnation of the Word in her womb. From that moment, she became the dwelling place of God, the living tabernacle, living monstrance, living chalice, living paten of God made man: Jesus.... She became the one who bears in her Immaculate Heart and Womb, the Redeemer of Men. From that moment on, when she placed herself totally at the service of the plan of salvation and she freely and lovingly said *"I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your word"*, She would no longer had any more projects in her life than to be totally and unconditionally for the Lord and at the service of the Lord. She gave the gift of herself to the Lord with the totality of her feminine "I", with all the potentialities of her feminine genius, with all the capacities of her spousal and maternal heart... Her Fiat, which was an exclamation of undivided and unconditional love for the Lord, impelled by the power of the Spirit in communion with her own human cooperation, marked a new path for her life.... From that moment on, She will live exclusively for Jesus, to love Him, teach him and care for Him with maternal love. She was chosen to participate in a unique and singular manner in His Salvific Mission. She lived only for him and with him and, also lived in obedience to the Holy Spirit, who will impel her to go across the mountains and oceans of humanity to bring Him and place him in the realities of the human heart... She, filled with the Holy Spirit, now had to go in haste to wherever the Spirit will lead her to place Jesus in the manger of the world... From that moment on, she would do whatever He needed her to do and She would go wherever He needed her to go, because with Jesus in her Womb, *she had become the bearer of Christ to the world and humanity. Under obedience to the impulses of the Holy Spirit, she had to go in haste, wherever he may send her, to whomever she will send her to, whenever she will send her to bring Christ to all men.*

At the end of the Annunciation, when proclaim *"I am the servant of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your word"*, Our Lady has placed herself totally in obedience to the will of the Lord... she has placed herself in a journey full of surprises but totally trusting in God's perfect and Holy will. She also proclaimed with her Fiat, her total disposition to go in haste to bring Jesus to humanity. We read in today's Gospel that Our Lady set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to the town of Judah, where she entered into the house of Zachariah and Elizabeth, who was miraculously pregnant.... *The Spirit had led her to go in haste to fulfill a mission of service bringing Jesus within her and through her to this family.* At her greeting the Holy

Spirit filled the child in Elizabeth's womb and he leaped for joy just as it was promised to Zachariah by the angel (Lk 1,15) and also Elizabeth, his mother, experienced the grace of being filled with the Holy Spirit. Why at the

simple greeting of Our Lady, the Holy Spirit overshadowed Elizabeth and John the Baptist in the womb of his mother. Why by her greeting they receive the grace of Pentecost? Because Our Lady, goes in mission to visit humanity to share with us all the graces she has received. She is filled with the Holy Spirit and she can only communicate what she possesses in fullness. She has in her womb, the Redeemer of Men, and her visitations can only bring to our hearts the redeeming power of his love, mercy, healing and freedom.

Her maternal presence and maternal visitations, as we see in many of her apparitions like in Fatima, can help the human heart to grow in faith, the faith that she possesses in her heart for which Elizabeth praised her. *"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled"*. Her visitations can only help us to experience the power of the Spirit as in a new and constant Pentecost in our lives and the life of the Church. She was a key person in the first Pentecost, her prayerful, maternal mediation will always be necessary for us to experience the Power of Pentecost in our lives. That is why in all her visitations, we see the blossoming not only of the gifts or charisms of the Spirit but also and very importantly the blossoming of the fruits of the Holy Spirit growing in the human heart: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. (Gal 6, 22). Where Our Lady visits become places of love, oasis of peace, places where charity and service are concrete and visible, and where conversion of hearts, repentance and profound spirit of prayer and contemplation of the Word, reveal the simple yet powerful effect of her presence, of her visitation.

Dear Sisters, you have given your Fiat to the Lord through your religious profession of the vows of chastity, poverty, obedience and total Marian availability. Four ways in which you will express your undivided love for the Lord and unconditional service to expand his Kingdom of love to the four corners of the world. You, like Our Lady, have said tonight, "I am the servant of the Lord".... You have also lay down your life to live exclusively for Him and to go in haste wherever the Holy Spirit will send you through the apostolic mission entrusted to you by our Institute.

Dear Sisters, you have been able to give a response of love to the calling of the Lord to the religious vocation, because you had as a school for your hearts the Heart of our Lady. You have filled your heart with a strong life of prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, meditation of the Sacred Scriptures, a life of service, of true fraternity and a strong human, spiritual, academic and pastoral formation, all based in our Marian Charism, Marian Identity and Marian Mission. All the ways in which the Holy Spirit was able to form your heart to say today this Fiat, have to continue to be your way of life until your last breath. Live like Our Lady, filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, attentive to his inspirations to lead you to holiness and fidelity to your religious vows, to form you and transform you each day according to the identity of the Servants, totally open to his actions and interior movements thus He can constantly conceived Jesus in your heart and then, like Our Lady, you can go in haste whenever he leads you, to bring Jesus to a world so much in need of His love, His truth, His Mercy and His Freedom.

Sisters, you are also called today, *to be women of the visitation*. Like our Blessed Mother, after you have given your Fiat, today also begins a new path, a journey full of surprises.... You will never know all the places, all the hearts, all the missions that the Holy Spirit will entrust you with through the Institute, but I can only remind you that as Our Lady you are to be always, at all times, and in any place, *bearers of Christ to all humanity*.



Dear Sisters, I would like to conclude with a paragraph of a letter that I wrote to the Spiritual Family in 2013: *"Let us go in haste like Our Lady to sow the seed of the Gospel in all hearts and in all the areopagus of our time. Let us conquer, with the force of good and the light of the Gospel, many hearts for the Kingdom of love, peace, life and truth. Let us go out into the deep with enthusiasm and with missionary ardor, sustained by the pillars of our faith and under the direction of Our Lady, Star of the New Evangelization. Let us be lit candles, luminous lighthouses that direct the human heart towards the full meaning of life. Let us form hearts for a new civilization of love and with the beauty, splendor and potency of our Marian charism."*

In the spirit of Our Lady's Visitation,

Mother Adela, SCTJ
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