

*“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”*

To all,

As I reflect on the birth of Jesus this year my attention is drawn to Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. A small family group seeking shelter for themselves and their newborn. I like many grew up with the image of the parents in some form of spiritual ecstasy as they watch over the baby in the manger. Yet does this really do justice to the actual event, does it show the humanness of the Holy family. We may call Mary blessed and “full of grace” and forget that if Jesus was fully human and divine then so too were Mary and Joseph fully human. It is in the humanity of the new vision that I began to see that like myself and all peoples Mary and Joseph would have had the normal stresses, worries, fears, difficulties, and joys that we all share. Mary learned her faith and wisdom as she journeyed through life, like us she had to had to work out, day to day, how to navigate her life and its unbelievable calling.

I love this verse from Luke which is repeated twice in Luke 2:19 and Luke 2:51 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. It is this pondering that allowed Mary to just sit in the moment and treasure all experiences. St. Ignatius would agree! The best gift you can give yourself, and others, is the habit of attending to this moment in your life and paying attention to your actual experience. Living moment by moment, in an attitude of thanksgiving that treasures every gift, is just one of Mary’s lessons to us.

How do we as Vincentians answer the call of God in our service to our family, friends and companions?

What lessons and wisdom do I receive from the companions I have contact with?

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