



**PROFESSION REFLECTION**  
**MARCH 25, 2023**

Today we celebrate the feast of Love who becomes incarnate and makes His dwelling among us. God gives Himself totally to each and every one of us in Jesus. Mary knew how to discover this reality in herself, as her humility made her capable of seeing herself as God saw her, and for this reason she felt graced, full of grace. God surprised her by inviting her to be part of this love story, to interweave her life with His.

This experience unsettled Mary, disturbed her, and yet she decided to trust in Love, with no other security than a promise. She knew that things would not be easy for her. She had doubts, but the experience of Love was much stronger and moved her to commit herself and take risks, to place herself at the service of God's plan, to stake everything on Him.

Observing Mary, we realize that we too can discover and experience what she lived, that we too are bearers of life, that we too are pregnant with God's Love. This is why we say that she is an example to follow, as Pope Francis said beautifully, "Mary is not only the bridge between God and us, she is even more: she is the path that God has travelled to reach us and she is the path that we must travel to reach God."

In recent days, we, as General Council, have had the privilege of listening to the testimony of our sisters Kata, Enni, Linda, Fili, Barbara, Yola and Ala, who shared with us how they have been pierced by the Love of God. We have heard how God has been interwoven in their lives, something they have experienced throughout their history, and today, together with Mary, we want to celebrate their "YES," their desire to commit themselves forever.

Perhaps by looking at them, we could understand something of Mary's experience. Those of us who were able to greet them before the beginning of this celebration could perhaps perceive their joy and happiness, as if the Angel had said to them, "Rejoice, full of grace." Because in this time of probation they have travelled a path that has transformed them, they have been able to look at themselves in their most authentic being with the loving and compassionate gaze of Jesus.

And surely in this time of their probation they too have experienced moments of doubt or hesitation in some situations, or they must have asked themselves, "But how can this be



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possible if I..." I don't know what promises Gabriel has made them, but here they are, ready to give everything. Like Mary, they have put their trust in God, they know in Whom they trust.

They know they are chosen, not because they are perfect, but because they have experienced that it is precisely through the clay of our being, our contradictions, our fragility and our smallness, that God wants to write this story of love.

Like Mary, they have been able to say, "Let it be done to me according to your word," with absolute openness to let the Spirit of God continue to transform them, to shape them in the way of Jesus, with the feelings and preferences of His heart.

And now they feel renewed, invited to love, to embrace life as it comes. They are determined to learn to take care of and preserve the roots of this precious story, to let Jesus take root in their hearts, in their lives, and to pass it on to others.

Mary knew how to recognize and welcome the signs of life in the midst of uncertainty. God is present in us. Do we know how to recognize and welcome these constant signs of his loving presence in our lives? Perhaps we sometimes need, like the probationists, these spaces of renewal to recover the awareness of the Love that dwells in us and to be able to say "YES" like Mary. To say "yes" to being instruments at the service of life wherever we are, to say "yes" to going to the geographical and existential peripheries to accompany and defend the life that springs forth, to say "yes" to becoming more human and more sisters among ourselves and with others, to say "yes" to showing the joyful and compassionate face of God, to listen to His heartbeat and to welcome the action of God's Spirit that transforms us, to revitalize our union in diversity and to act as one dynamic, interconnected body, linked with other bodies creating a universal community of brothers and sisters.

Today Mary's "YES" echoes and continues to be heard from generation to generation. Let us accompany our sisters in the profession of their definitive "YES" to live in Love and let us each renew our own commitment.

Monica Esquivel rscj