

# MARY OF THE PASSION

## A Paschal Journey

A journey of transformation  
at the school of Mary of the Passion



**“Mary of the Passion saw Jesus  
on the roads of Galilee...”**

(Anne Marie Foujols)

*Transformation- Leaflet 4  
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***“Let us make our life a perpetual communion. Let us commune with the will of God, in all things.”*** (Mary of the Passion)

## **PREPARATION FOR THE RECOLLECTION**

Mary of the Passion by her life has shown us that thankfulness is the way to holiness and happiness. A grateful person searches to live in communion with the will of God and so is at peace. Jesus offered his Father a prayer of gratitude frequently. *” Father....I thank you because you have revealed to the unlearned what you have hidden from the wise and the learned.* “(Mt. 11:25)

One way to prepare ourselves to receive this gift is through a simple prayer of gratitude... repeating over and over again with the rhythm of our breath. Let us slow down and relax, taking a comfortable posture.

**Try it now. Breathe in deep as you pray, “Thank you” then breathe out as you pray, “Jesus!”.** Repeat this simple prayer as many times as needed. One can also replace the prayer “Thank you, Jesus” with “Thank you, Father” or “Thank you, Holy Spirit”.

This simple prayer of gratitude revitalizes our energy and it renews our minds and hearts by transforming our every breath as a smile to God, as a child in the arms of its mother. ***“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*** (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

**Christ is truly risen, Alleluia!**

**Do we proclaim this Good News by our life?**

**Gospel: John 20:11-18**

### **First Witness**

Mary Magdalene stands at the empty tomb in fear and shock. She asks "Where have they taken my Lord?" Turning around she sees 'the gardener'. This ordinary gardener is the Risen Lord! Jesus looks at her in a familiar way and says one word, 'Mary'. Immediately her eyes are truly opened and she realises to whom she is speaking.

Jesus has a mission for her, he asks her to go and tell the others that he has risen from the dead. This is the Easter message; this is our Easter mission. If Mary had held onto Jesus, afraid of losing him once again, the story would have died and the hope and power of the resurrection would have been only shared by a few privileged persons. But Mary risked her life and ran from the garden and from the place she felt most secure to announce the Good News of the Resurrection. She ran into the world, filled with that intimate moment she had lived with her Lord; she allowed the same love "that had transformed her to transform the world".

This Easter message, this Easter experience, is our story to share. This encounter of having met the risen Christ one day in the garden of our life, when Jesus called our name. Experience of a God who makes all things new, who leads us out of the darkness of despair into the light of hope.

In the light of these texts, how do I understand the mission Jesus has confided to me?

### **The Path of Missionary Evangelization**

The resurrection has broken the power of sin in our lives and overcome evil in our world. When we love and serve others we are shining forth the light of God's love and offering much needed hope.

This is the path we must walk, the path of missionary evangelization. Let us contemplate how Blessed Mary of the Passion incarnated this missionary zeal to announce Christ to the world.

*“The spiritual source from where Mary of the Passion's action sprung forth is unique; it is her intimate union with*

*God in faith and love. It is concretely manifested under two principles: attention to the signs from God and the contemplation of Christ's face in all those who suffer. The love for the poor is interiorised even more in contemplation, not only of Christ who is the friend of the poor, but of Christ living "in the person of the poor".*

*Who were these "poor in soul and body" (MD, 326) whose appeal God made her hear? They were above all "all that was little, all that suffered (CR/2, 90), it was those who were tried (MD, 278), the abandoned, the humiliated, the sick (MD 403), the despised, weak souls, exposed to scandal or error (MD 12), those whom the world rejects because they are little to look at either because of their misery or because of persecution" (MD, 139).*

*Mary of the Passion saw Jesus on the roads of Galilee, leaning over physical and moral misery, welcoming the excluded of that time: lepers, publicans, foreigners, and she invited her missionaries to share this "attraction of her love".*

Sr. Anne Marie Foujols

In the suffering world, who are the persons that touch me the most and who reflect for me the face of Christ?

## **Called to be His Witnesses...**

The Easter story is not a one-time event, but an ongoing journey as we strive to live the gospel in the spirit of the Resurrection.

## **An appeal has been made to us in Evangelii Gaudium:**

*...each of us should find ways to communicate Jesus wherever we are... In your heart you know that it is not the same to live without him; what you have come to realize, what has helped you to live and given you hope, is what you also need to communicate to others. (121)*

*True love is always contemplative, and permits us to serve the other not out of necessity or vanity, but rather because he or she is beautiful above and beyond mere appearances: “The love by which we find the other pleasing leads us to offer (them) something freely”. (199)*

*... An authentic faith – which is never comfortable or completely personal – always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better than we found it. We love this magnificent planet on which God has put us, and we love the human family which dwells here, with all its tragedies and struggles, its hopes and aspirations, its strengths and*

*weaknesses. The earth is our common home and all of us are brothers and sisters. (183)*

We desire: To live in harmony, peace and non-violence with ourselves, with others and with the whole of Creation.

In connection with this desire what are the changes that I have chosen to make in my life? To what do I feel called?

**Prayer for the Extraordinary Missionary Month  
October 2019**

Heavenly Father,  
when your only begotten Son Jesus Christ  
rose from the dead,  
he commissioned his followers  
to “go and make disciples of all nations”  
and you remind us that through our Baptism  
we are made sharers in the mission of the Church.

Empower us by the gifts of the Holy Spirit  
to be courageous and zealous  
in bearing witness to the Gospel,  
so that the mission entrusted to the Church,  
which is still very far from completion,  
may find new and efficacious expressions  
that bring life and light to the world.

Help us make it possible for all peoples  
to experience the saving love  
and mercy of Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
One God, forever and ever.

Amen.