



The Missionary Mysteries of the Rosary

by Sr. Maria Burke SSpS

1. The Incarnation: John 1:1-5, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Reflection: The Triune God is the source of Mission. The mystery of the Incarnation forms the foundation of missionary life. It is fundamental for every missionary to identify closely with the recipients of the Word, and with the Word made flesh.

Petitions for the continent of Africa

First decade of the rosary

2. The Epiphany: Mt 2:1-2

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked. "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

Reflection: The recipients of God's mission are those who are simple of heart like Mary and Joseph, the poor shepherds and the Wise men, all willing to admit that they knew too little. After a long and difficult journey, they say the child and rejoiced. A missionary is one who is able to bend down in humility led by the Spirit. Like the Wise men, a missionary has to pass through many



struggles but never loses sight of the light. The wise men from the east represent all people of good will and peace, and all migrants from different races and cultures, where mission has many faces.

Petitions for the continent of Asia

Second decade of the rosary

3. The Calling of the Twelve: Mk 3:13-14

Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach.

Reflection: Before calling the twelve disciples and before all other major events in his life, Jesus always went up the mountain in order to pray. A missionary is a person of prayer, always seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit in every decision. Jesus calls each missionary by name to be with Him and to be sent out. The call to discipleship is a call to participate in Jesus' prophetic mission to bring good news, to proclaim liberty, and to give sight to the blind. Every missionary is called to reach out to everyone to share the fullness of God's love.

Petitions for the continent of the Americas and the Caribbean

Third decade of the rosary

4. The Washing of the Feet: Jn 13:2, 4-7, 12-15

The evening meal was in progress [...] so Jesus got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him,



“Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord’, and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

Reflection: A missionary is one who teaches by examples, by the witness of life. A missionary is also one who closely follows the life of the Master. Washing the feet of others demands a lot of humility and sacrifice. A missionary therefore is one who must renounce self, take up a cross, and follow. The act of washing not only symbolizes servant leadership, humility and sacrifice, but also God’s unconditional love, washing away all that hinders us from becoming genuine messengers of the gospel.

Petitions for the countries of the Pacific

Fourth decade of the rosary

5. The Mission Sending of the Disciples to the World: Mt 28:16-20

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”



Reflection: A missionary is one who can totally surrender and put trust in the abiding presence of the Triune God. Mission is offered to everyone, and transcends barriers of culture, time and space. Even at the twilight of one's life, the missionary remains a beacon of the Good News and a living reminder to everyone that God loves us, and will always be with us.

Petitions for the continent of Europe

Fifth decade of the rosary