



Season of Creation 2021 Prayer-Reflection Guide 2

September 8 - Feast of the Nativity of Mary

Opening song: Bernadette Farrel "[Everyday God](#)" / Cecilia Rivero "[Dame Señor tu Mirada](#)"

1) Recognizing the living God

Today we celebrate Mary's birthday – the day of birth of a woman:

- Whose heart was sensitive to hear God's invitation among her daily activities and who influenced reality according to the Holy Spirit,
- Who allowed Christ to come to others through her,
- Who experienced joy and sorrow in an attitude of trust for God and who was able to receive others' care.



"Mother and Child" - Vicente Manansala

Mary's birthday reminds us of God's love, who creates us and helps us to become new people. We are born not only once, by flesh, but throughout our life we experience the process of being reborn, like Jesus says in the Gospel of St. John about being born again, from Spirit. We become new people (the birth from the new), as people who build mutual relationships and serve with love, who move from being hurt and closed to being able to forgive and be open for new beginnings. We grow up in knowledge and gifts, so that our experience of being born is as people who desire to co-create a better world around us. We BECOME, thanks to God's grace, new people not only for ourselves, but for helping each other to be born – to experience a better reality.

God in the body of Jesus entrusted Mary's hands and heart and she recognized in Him the presence of God. Today, Christ entrusts himself in the bodies of our sisters and brothers around us. Do we –as she did - recognize His presence, the greatest gift of Life, who entrusts Himself in our human love, our gentle care and our creativity, that is able to build a new home?

2) Let Love move you

Before a baby comes into the world, the parents prepare everything, so that they can feel safe and accepted. For example, they prepare the room and buy all the necessary things. LOVE encourages their creativity to create space with sensitivity and care in order to welcome LIFE.

God's LOVE supports us to live with a similar attitude – to create space and conditions that will help others to LIVE and grow. Between us, who are the children of One God, there are people who deal with reality better and people who need more attention, care, acceptance, adequate support: health care, education, food, home, clothes...

A baby's appearance in the family naturally arouses an increased sensitivity and care. Our human hearts hear very quickly the baby's cry or its body's signals, without using words.

Do I want to see these children of God of different ages, who maybe live in my neighborhood and whose presence (not always voices) is calling me to notice?

How can I respond to that call?

Who are God's children that I now see as persons that experience abandonment and who lack the conditions to live and develop?



3) Prepare not only “the crib”

Every birth - every transformation to a new way of life - needs the supporting presence of both God and others. How, by concrete initiatives, can we help the new birth and the creating of space, that will enable life to be born and to grow?

- Prepare “cribs” - the human conditions that will help nurture life and growth,
- Initiate and support ideas that help people to attain access to education, health care, jobs...
- Arrange and take part in neighborhood's initiatives, so that people around us will not feel lonely and abandoned.

Giving birth and helping in it, transformation and cooperation with compassion are certainly an effort, but at the same time we as human beings have the experience of Jesus' words: *A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born, she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world.* (J 16, 21) Each of us has different gifts and possibilities to support NEW LIFE between children of God, to do as God did and continues to do through us: *“to lift a little one to the cheek, to feed, and to teach to walk”* (Hosea 11, 3-4).

What does Love invite you to do?

Entrust to God your desires and ideas, remembering His presence with you, and go to be His Heart and His Hands for and with others.

Closing Song: David Haas “[Voices that Challenge](#)”/ Cecilia Rivero “[La Mission](#)”

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2021