

The Blessed Virgin Mary 2025

Poverty is a word which has been abused. There is no dignity in hunger. There is a denial of the nature of God's love in real deprivation. The poor are blessed because God chose the weak to confound the strong. He chose the slave of the Egyptian's not Pharaoh. He chose fishermen to be Apostles, he did not choose Scribes and Pharisees.

Thus it is no wonder that place of the Virgin Mary is a place of humility, vulnerability

In this sense Christian Poverty.

She does not proclaim

"God be merciful to me a sinner"

For she was not a sinner

She states in the few words quoted from her in the Gospel

"I am the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done unto me according to thy word"

Thus there is incredible

Humility

And

Vulnerability

Incredible courage

Compare the young girl visited by the power of the Angel Gabriel

With the Pharisee who stands before God

He feels his moral standing is beyond challenge

He feels his wealth provides for this moral certainty

He is secure

And he is a fool

The virgin who conceives the Christ Child

Knows that her standing before others is to be challenged

She has no wealth, indeed being female at that time

She has no independence

Total vulnerability

Then even so
She says yes to life
She says yes to Christ
And it begins

Who are you closer to?
The Pharisee who believes in the illusion of his invincibility
And is wrong
Or the Virgin mother
Who accepts the vulnerability of life?

I wonder would the all-powerful Pharisee be capable of having a relationship in life
Would there be any room in his heart for another
Would he be capable of forgiveness?
Accepting that all things did not fit into his way
Accepting that the world could hurt him
Accepting the pain and the struggle,
Without losing the resolve and the faithfulness
Or would he hide instead behind the illusions

The Blessed Virgin Mary had no hiding place
There at the foot of the cross
Observing
Indeed sharing
In each twisted spasm of pain
That ran through
The crucified body of her son
Vulnerable
She felt it
Poor
She could do nothing about it

And still did not lose
The resolve of love
Or the faithfulness
That believed in the goodness of God
For belief is not a strategy to avoid suffering
But the means by which we deal with it

The Pharisees of this world
The safe made arrogant by their wealth Or power

Are as nothing
The Blessed Virgin Mary experienced the resurrection
Lives the resurrection
And centuries have painted images
Of heavenly Glory
Crowned and seated upon a throne

But no more glorious was she
Than as a vulnerable mother
Than when she felt the pain
Than when she had nothing other than faith
And the resolve
To accept the consequences of life

Who are you closer to?

St Augustine prayed
Make me a saint
But not yet

He had real insight.