



## JULY 2019

**Gospel Text:** “His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him” (Lk 1:50).

**MARY:** Mary, through her own experience of God’s mercy, can read her people’s history and opens herself to the hope of future generations, who will also praise God. She looks at the past with gratitude, she lives out the present with passion and she embraces the future with hope.

**GOD:** God is the God of History. His mercy situates us where we are at. We inherit the Love Story of many generations and we contribute to the dream of God’s Kingdom in our own time in history.

**CLAUDINE:** Despite the fact that she felt that she had embarked on a “foolish and presumptuous enterprise”, Claudine founded a family that has endured over several generations. Many are the generations that have experienced God’s mercy in and through Jesus and Mary.

**OUR JM FAMILY:** Our JM family has lived for 200 years trusting in His mercy. Numerous generations have entered deeply into this charism and have endeavored to live out forgiveness, reconciliation and healing, as well as helping others to do likewise.

**GRACE:** We seek the grace to recognize that we too are part of God’s Love Story and to give thanks for His mercy that has come to us through the generations.

- I consider previous generations of my family and of the Congregation, in order to recognise and give thanks for God’s mercy.
- I contemplate the future generations. I pray for them and I seek the wisdom to be able to share God’s work in us.

**ACTIVITY:** Visit an orphanage/old age home, or the people down your street and be an expression of mercy to them.

We invite you to reflect on Annex 1 (see behind), so as to help this visit and to grow in these attitudes.



## ANNEXE 1

**Parallelism between the passage regarding the arrival in Jerusalem of the Ark of the Covenant and the passage that recounts the Visitation:** *“According to the Old Testament, when King David rose to the throne in Jerusalem, he wanted to bring the Ark of the Covenant to the capital. The Ark was in a neighbouring city so David organised a procession to bring it to Jerusalem. Despite the fact that the passage which describes the carrying of the Ark to Jerusalem is much longer than that of the Visitation, and that it contains many graphic and curious details, we still find many of its elements in the passage about Mary”.*

*“It is likely that the Ark of the Covenant text was well known and read every year around the time of the commemoration of its arrival into Jerusalem. For this reason, Luke uses it as a base for his account and he presents Mary as the new Ark of the Covenant, carrying the new Word of God, Jesus Christ.”*

*(Álvarez Valdés, Ariel)*

### Ark of the Covenant Text:

- They travel to a town in the hill country of Judah (2 Sam 6:2).
- David asks: Who am I that the Ark of my Lord should come to me? (2 Sam 6:9)
- The Ark remained there for three months (2 Sam 6:11).
- The presence of the Ark filled all those who lived in the house with blessings (2 Sam 6:11).
- There were shouts of joy (2 Sam 6:5).
- There were loud cries (2 Sam 6:15).
- There was singing (2 Sam 6:5).

### Visitation Text:

- Mary travels to a town in the hill country of Judah (Lk 1:39). Luke should have said Judea, because that was the name of the region at the time; however, he uses the old name (which is not used in the New Testament) in order to highlight the relationship with the Ark of the Covenant text.
- Elizabeth asks: Who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me? (Lk 1:43).
- Mary stayed there for three months (Lk 1:56).
- Mary filled all those who lived in the house with blessings (Lk 1:41).
- There were shouts of joy (Lk 1:41).
- There were loud cries (Lk 1:42).
- There was singing (Lk 1:46-55).