



Mixed Team Sessions

“Serving in Imitation of Mary” Mixed Team Meeting 1

The Flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-18)

Saturday, 22 April 2023 16:45

The scripture basis for Meeting 3 in the 2022-2023 “Serving in Imitation of Mary” ERI Study Topic

MEETING IN CONFIDENCE

All acknowledge that what is shared in this session will be kept in confidence.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

All pray aloud together (see text in the Section “[Teams Prayers](#)”, Page 3).

INTRODUCTIONS AND SHARING

Members of the group briefly introduce themselves: their name, where they have travelled from, and perhaps a striking thought or moment from the Gathering so far.

SCRIPTURE READING (Matthew 2:13-18)

Someone from the group reads the scripture text aloud.

After they had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.” So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: I called my son out of Egypt. Herod was furious when he realized that he had been outwitted by the wise men, and in Bethlehem and its surrounding district he had all the male children killed who were two years old or under, reckoning by the date he had been careful to ask the wise men. It was then that the words spoken through the prophet Jeremiah were fulfilled: A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loudly lamenting. It was Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted because they were no more.

LISTEN QUIETLY TO MARY’S HEART

Once again, turmoil and upheaval. How far into Egypt will they have to go? Joseph, at least, is one of those who can make a living anywhere. Little Jesus, who could possibly want to do away with you?

PRAY WITH MARY

Members of the group offer in turn a prayer inspired by their reflection on the scripture text.

DISCUSSION

- ❖ Discuss, based on this text, the trust between Mary and Joseph, and how it may have developed, or may have been challenged, over the course of their marriage, up to and including this episode.
- ❖ How might this episode have changed Mary’s grasp of the angel’s foretelling of Jesus’ destiny?



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RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 124)

The group determines how the reading of the psalm verses and response are to be shared.

Response: Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth

If the Lord had not been on our side

—Let Israel repeat it—

If the Lord had not been on our side

When people attacked us

They would have swallowed us alive

In the heat of their anger

Then water was washing us away

A torrent running right over us

Running right over us then

Were turbulent waters

Blessed be the Lord for not letting us fall

A prey to their teeth

We escaped like a bird

From the fowler's net

The net was broken

And we escaped

Our help is in the name of the Lord

Who made heaven and earth

INTERCESSIONS

Members of the group offer prayers in turn for any whom they know are in need.

MAGNIFICAT

All stand and pray aloud together (see text in the Section "[Teams Prayers](#)", Page 3).



Teams Prayers

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

All pray aloud together.

Holy Spirit,

You are the Spirit of the Father and the Son blessed in eternity.

You have been sent to us by Jesus, to make us understand what He told us, and to lead us towards the fulness of truth.

You are for us the Spirit of Life, the Spirit of Creation, the Sanctifying Spirit.

It is you who renew all things.

We humbly ask you to enliven us, and to make your home in us: in each and every one of us, in each of our couples, and in each of our Teams, so that we may live the Sacrament of Marriage as a place of love, a path to happiness, and a way to holiness.

Amen.

MAGNIFICAT

All stand and pray aloud together.

And Mary said:

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord

And my spirit exults in God my Saviour

Because He has looked upon His lowly handmaid

Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed

For the Almighty has done great things for me

Holy is His name

And His mercy reaches from age to age

For those who fear Him

He has shown the power of His arm

He has routed the proud of heart

He has pulled down princes from their thrones

And exalted the lowly

The hungry He has filled with good things

The rich He sent empty away

He has come to the help of Israel, His servant

Mindful of His mercy

According to the promise He made to our ancestors:

Of His mercy to Abraham

And to his descendants forever

Our Lady of the home, pray for us

PRAYER FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF FATHER HENRI CAFFAREL

All pray aloud together.

God, our Father,

You planted deep in the heart of your servant, Henri Caffarel,

a fountain of love which bound him totally to your Son

and inspired him with a wonderful capacity to speak of Him.

A prophet for our time,

he revealed the dignity and beauty of the vocation of every person

in the words Jesus addresses to each of us: "Come follow me".



He made couples enthusiastic about the greatness of the sacrament of marriage,
the sign of Christ's fruitful love for the Church and of His union with her.

He showed that priests and couples
are called to live a vocation of love.

He was a guide to widows: love is stronger than death.

Prompted by the Holy Spirit,

he accompanied many Christians on the path of prayer.

Seized by a devouring fire, he was a dwelling place for you, Lord.

God, our Father,

through the intercession of Our Lady,

we ask you to hasten the day

when the Church will proclaim the holiness of his life,

so that people everywhere will discover the joy of following your Son

in accordance with their particular vocations in the Holy Spirit.

God our Father, we at this Teams GB Gathering invoke Father Caffarel to plead with you for the good
and growth of this Movement that you saw fit through him to initiate among us. Through his prayers,
release powerful graces for redoubling our own desires for holiness, and for drawing many to seek you
in the company of a Team.

Amen.

