

## *Holy Hour for the Feast of the Presentation*

### Exposition

At the personal decision of Pope John Paul II on February 2, 1983, Mother Luisita became a Foundress for the second time with the birth of the Congregation of the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles. The life of our Congregation came about after the painful pangs of birth and it was born with the commitment to uncompromising fidelity to the ideals of Mother Luistita, our Foundress, whose great love was Jesus Christ, and whose undying wish was to live and die a daughter of the Church.

*We offer this Holy Hour in thanksgiving for our consecrated life in Carmel; praising Him for the innumerable graces that have come to us in our Religious Life. May we offer to Jesus, Mary and Joseph a hymn of grateful prayer and praise for being called to live each day in the Temple of the Lord. We especially offer our prayers for Sr. Cora and Sr. Teresa on this day of their approval for first vows.*



Creed-Our Father-Hail Marys

R: Our Lady of the Presentation V. Pray for us

**Before decade 1:** “In our striving after a goal, the image of the bride of the Canticle can be kept before our eyes. She is pictured to us as making her way up the desert road leaning on the arm of her beloved. So also the religious sister. She is the bride of Christ, in her poverty, leaning on Him for her support and assistance and strength, as she makes her way securely through the desert of the present life in a new Exodus to the promised land.” Mary, humble handmaiden, help us to surrender everything to our Lord, leaning on Him and placing ourselves unreservedly at the service of the Church and our Institute.

### **The Annunciation**

### **Decade 2: The Visitation**

**Before Decade 3:** The mystery of virginity includes as one of its highest perfections and its crowning glory, motherhood, such that the virgin who belongs to Christ can be likened to snow on a mountain top or peak whose purity and whiteness are constantly being supplied by an invisible divine activity from above and yet which is constantly melting under a warming action of God’s love in order to bring life-giving water to refresh those living in the valleys below. It is in the institution of virginity where we find the highest activity and outpouring of the woman’s nature. There is something that is put into her life which cannot come from herself, the ability to give life, the ability to be mother...Her life of perpetual virginity...consecrates her and blesses her for a participation in the universal and immaculate motherhood of the Church throughout the entire world. Her procreative activity is not static; rather, it is dynamic and constant, occurring whenever she turns to Christ which is always and surrenders herself to His every need and request. May we who have been chosen to follow Christ, Our Bridegroom, walk hand in hand

with Our Lady asking for the grace to be faithful and fervent in our daily fiat to His divine plan as Daughter, Spouse and Mother.

### **The Birth of Our Lord**

**Before Decade 4:** *"It is no mistake that the World Day of Consecrated Life coincides with the celebration of the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. This celebration is an eloquent icon of the total offering of one's life for all those who are called to show forth in the Church and in the world, by means of the evangelical counsels 'the characteristic features of Jesus -- the chaste, poor and obedient one.'" Pope John Paul II*

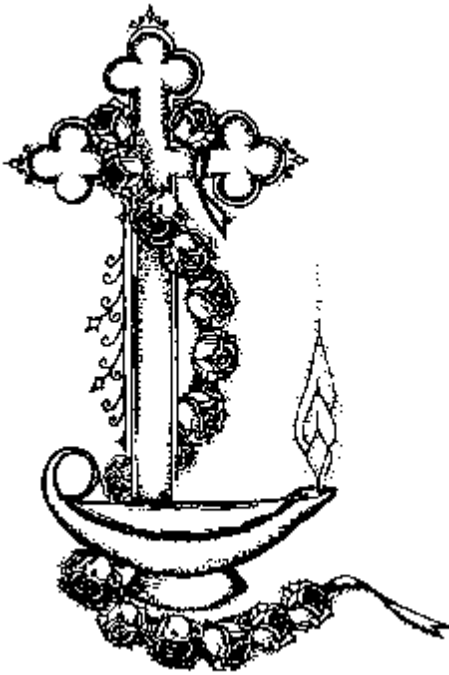
#### **The Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple**

##### **Before decade 5:**

*"I urge you to be very obedient. Without obedience, you won't be taking one single step toward heaven. Who wouldn't be happy observing obedience? Whenever the right thing is done, there is joy. Avail yourself of every opportunity within your present circumstances to become a saint by offering yourself as a holocaust and victim, even if this would mean becoming a martyr of obedience."*

Mother Luisita

#### **The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple**



#### **Litany of Loretto**

**Closing Reflection:** May you who have been called to mother in Christ experience the promise which Isaiah made about the new Jerusalem whose sacramental prolongation you become through your commitment to virginity: "Rise up Jerusalem, and shine forth. Thy dawn has come and now the glory of the Lord breaks upon thee. Lift up thy eyes and look about thee. Who are these that come flocking to thy side? Sons of thine and daughters of thine. They come from afar off, and they rise up close at hand. Thou who wert the unbefriended one, the desolate in the eyes of man, the place unvisited by man, thou shalt be the pride of the ages and the joy of generations. For the Lord Himself shall be thy everlasting light, and thy God shall be thy splendor."