

*Pause*

**Guide:** Let us kneel and express our petitions in a shared prayer. The response will be: Mary, intercede for us.

**All:** **Mary, intercede for us.**

*Pause, for spontaneous Prayer*

**Guide:** Let us turn to our God and Father who gave the Holy Spirit to His apostles as they joined in prayer with Mary the Mother of His Son; united with the whole Church we dare say:

**All:** Our Father...

**Final Song**

# Liturgical Celebration for Vocations

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**Introduction** (standing)

**Guide:** Today we look at Mary, our Mother, we will mediate on her faith and holiness. She is the Virgin who keeps the faith given to her by God. We look at her who shines in our midst as the model of virtues and joyfully we sing to her.

**Song:** (standing)

**Guide:** Abraham, the father of all the believers finds his counterpart in Mary, the first believer of the New Testament. When we consider Mary as the woman of faith, we recognize in her the same basic attitude of belief which we are striving for. The New Testament gives us information on the life of Mary, of her words and deeds as a believer. Mary is praised by Jesus for her faith: "Blessed is she who believed."

**Reader:** From the Gospel of Luke 11:27-28; 8:19-21; John 2:4-5 (standing)

*Pause (seated)*

**Guide:** Jesus Christ reinforces and deepens the admiration for His Mother: Do not bless her because of something physical, but rather because she has heard the word of God and has kept it and lived for it.

No one heard the Word of God more than Mary, she opened herself completely to it. No one put it into practice more than her. Through Mary the Word of God became flesh.

Mary is the perfect example of listening person: "I am the handmaid of the Lord, let what you have said be done to me." This is Mary's way of listening, through her the Word became God-with-us: Jesus our Savior. At Cana, Mary recognizing the need of her friends, went to Jesus fully confident of his ability to help. Jesus seemed almost to repulse her saying: "My hour has not yet come." But immediately Jesus gave proof that in spite of his words, his hour had indeed come: "Do whatever He tells you," with this, Mary teaches

us the greatest lesson on confidence and faith.

It is when God finds such openness and such receptivity that can truly be God, that He can bring his Kingdom among men.

*Pause (seated)*

**Song** (standing)

**Reader:** From the Gospel of Luke 1:28-38 (standing)

**Guide:** In her act of faith, Mary placed at God's disposal not only her mind and heart but also her body.

This act of faith shaped, in a most intimate way, her life as a woman.

True Faith is always open, ready to grow. Mary advanced from one surprise to another. Everything in her life seemed different, contrary to what she had expected or even imagined. All the circumstances of her life demanded of her response of faith.

*Pause (seated)*

**Reader:** From the Gospel of Luke 1:32-33; 2:7, 18-19 (standing)

*Short Pause (seated)*

**Guide:** Mary was truly a woman of faith. Eventually all this will bring her to Calvary. Near the Cross of Jesus stood his Mother. More than anyone else she shares the death of her Son. When she left Calvary she was a sorrowful woman, but still a woman of Faith. When Jesus died, even his best friends, his most faithful followers abandoned all hope. Mary alone kept faith inspiring with it the whole community of the early Church. She continues to do what she has always done: Be open to the Word of God. At the end of her life when she has faithfully accomplished everything that the plan of God implied, she is once more surprised by God in whom she has believed. A life-time of faith has created in her an immense respectivity. God let her share the glory of her Risen Son.