



PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee September 2024

The First Disciple

By S. Carla Mae Streeter

With this month of September, as if taking a clue from the glorious Feast of the Assumption, the Marian Feasts appear. September 8th, the Birthday of Mary; the 12th, the Holy Name of Mary; the 15th, the Sorrows of Mary; the 24th, the ancient feast of Our Lady of Ransom. The Marian tribute flows into October with the Feast of the Rosary on October 7. Why does the Church do this? Ask this of the readings...

Nestled in this Green Formation-in-Discipleship Time, what role does the Mother of Jesus play in the fostering of our own discipleship? In our own formation? In our own spirituality? In the life of the Church? Fear not that she will replace her Son in our lives. But don't miss the fact that she is given to us as the model of our own formation in discipleship. We look to our mother to see what we shall be. We look to her to see how one becomes a true disciple.

Yes, she was conceived without the sin of Adam. The blood her Son would shed would intercept it...the blood she gave Him, because with God there is no time. And we? We will have an immaculate completion...freed at last from all sin by that same blood. Then there was the Virgin Birth...His body formed in her by the Spirit's power in her DNA. And how else will you also give Christ to the world? How else does the Church give Christ to the world if not by a virgin birth? Mediatrix of all graces? The Sacred Humanity came from her, and that humanity was the sacrament of our saving. Is not your humble humanness, and that of the Church, the means of reaching out to others? And finally, in her Assumption, that humble God-bearing body becomes transformed by the very love that burned in her from Him. And you? What will your transfigured humanness look like, fed by His Risen Life in the Eucharist? Our mother shows us what discipleship looks like, and what it does to our humanness. She shows us what the Church will look like when the struggle is over, when there are no more tears.

Lovely Lady, dressed in blue, teach us how to pray...
God was just your little Boy, and you know the way.

Thank you to S. Ruthanne Reed for this month's reflections.

September 1, 2024 | 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time |

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15. 21-23

The Pharisees were excellent in checking out the activities of Jesus.

One way to do that was to keep an eye on his disciples, to question why they seemed not to follow the tradition of the elders, the outward approach to holiness. Jesus responded with a list of evils that come from within to defile a person. Does anything on that list fit well for us?

What might we need to change?

September 8, 2024 | 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time | Mark 7:31-37

Jesus and the deaf man moved away from the crowd; the healing took place quickly. Could it be that all that was needed was the presence of Jesus? The deaf man had people to help him; they had complete trust in Jesus. How are we on trust?

September 15, 2024 | 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Mark 8:27-35

Jesus wondered what people would say about him. Early on in his ministry, he knew that he would face rejection and even death. Those who follow Jesus are not spared this same fate. Jesus said that those who lose their life for Jesus' sake will save it. How does this teaching fit in with my life?

September 22, 2024 | 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Mark 9:30-37

As Jesus and his disciples moved about, he told them that he was to face death but that he would rise. How could they possibly understand such an idea! They were afraid to question Jesus. Instead, they wondered about -- who among them was the greatest! How could they miss the real message?

Do we ever do that very same thing?

September 29, 2024 | 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time | John 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

We often rather glibly use the phrase taken from this Gospel: "For whoever is not against us is for us." As people of truth and integrity, how are challenged to live with a keen sense of discernment and to respond with clarity? In this way, Jesus invites us to enter into the Kingdom of God.

