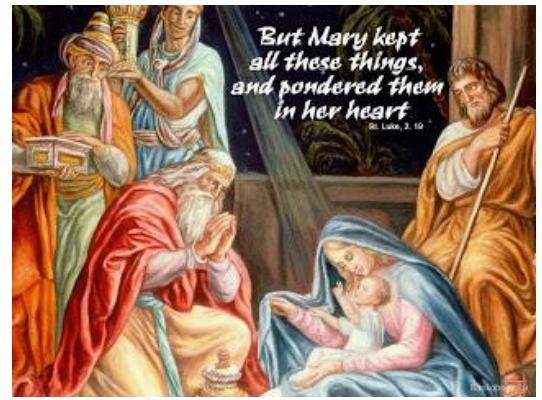


Mary's silence

Scripture reading:

"But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." (Luke 2:19)



From the Popes' teachings:

- **Pope John Paul II – Mary is model of persevering silence:**

Mary's example enables the Church better to appreciate the value of *silence*. Mary's silence is not only moderation in speech, but it is especially a wise capacity for remembering and embracing in a single gaze of faith the mystery of the Word made man and the events of his earthly life.

It is this silence as acceptance of the Word, this ability to meditate on the mystery of Christ, that Mary passes on to believers. In a noisy world filled with messages of all kinds, her witness enables us to appreciate a spiritually rich silence and fosters a contemplative spirit

- **Pope Francis - The Blessed Mother and the Lesson of Silence:**
(a report from Vatican Radio)

Pope Francis talked about how important silence is in our spiritual lives, and how the Blessed Mother lived her life in silence. It is in the silence that we experience the great mystery of God. God does not work in loud fanfare, but in silence, in the depths our hearts.

"Only silence guards the mystery of the journey that a person walks with God", said Pope Francis. "May the Lord", the Pope added, give us "the grace to love the silence", which needs to be guarded from all publicity. In the history of salvation, neither in the clamour nor in the blatant, but the shadows and the silence are the places in which God chose to reveal himself to humankind.

The Mother of Jesus was the perfect icon of silence. From the proclamation of her exceptional maternity at Calvary. The Pope said he thinks about "how many times she remained quiet and how many times she did not say that which she felt in order to guard the mystery of her relationship with her Son," up until the most raw silence "at the foot of the cross".

“In her silence she speaks volumes, she tells me to listen, she tells me to meditate, she tells me to simply silently follow behind my Lord, she tells me to trust, she tells me to immerse myself in Him so that my ‘self’ no longer exists, but that He exists in me and she tells me to be watchful, even observant”.

“Silence doesn’t mean withdrawal from things or necessarily an ‘absence’ of words for an extended period. It is more of an inward looking into the heart ... and these ‘lookings’ can be very brief in duration. Most important, we can find these silent moments repeatedly in our day ... even in the most hectic, active of lives. That, I believe, is Mary’s example to us”.

Questions for Reflection:

- How is Mother Mary being a model to me in my present life situation/s?
- How am I finding silence during this season of Advent?

Prayer:

Holy Mary, Mother of God, you who treasured all things and pondered them carefully in your heart, teach us that deep, interior silence which enfolded you throughout your lifetime