

Solemnity of the Annunciation

My dear confreres, brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,
Greetings of hope, joy and love in this Easter season.

I believe that you have experienced a beautiful and meaningful Easter celebration. At this moment of grace, the Church invites us to celebrate a very important event in our lives as Christians, namely the solemnity of the Annunciation. It is a real blessing for us to celebrate the mystery of the Annunciation in the light of the mystery of Easter.

Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort, our Founder, in the Love of Eternal Wisdom, reflected on the mystery of the Incarnation - the Annunciation - in the light of the Easter mysteries. He wrote "Wisdom Incarnate loved the cross from his infancy. At his coming into the world, while in his Mother's womb, he received it from his eternal Father. He placed it deep in his heart, there to dominate his life ... Throughout his life, he ardently sought the Cross" (cf. LEW 169-170).

For Saint Louis-Marie, the mystery of the Incarnation is also the mystery of the Cross. That is why, for Montfort, there is no Cross without Jesus and there is no Jesus without the Cross. On the basis of this reflection, we are invited to meditate on the presence of Mary, in particular her "Yes" in the mystery of the Annunciation and Mary's "Yes" in the mystery of the Cross.

At the Annunciation, Mary humbly declared "I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your word", and in the Way of the Cross, Mary gave concrete and visible expression to the words spoken at the Annunciation by her actions: by faithfully following her Son to the end in his Way of the Cross. Thanks to her "YES" to the mystery of the Annunciation, Mary received the Holy Spirit, the source of all grace, to conceive the Son of God, the Prince of Peace. And thanks to her "YES" in the mystery of the Cross, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, granted Mary the grace to bear and form her brothers and sisters, the children of God. The Gospel of Saint John says: "Woman, behold your son" (John 19:26). In the mystery of the Annunciation, Mary becomes the mother of Jesus, true God and true man, and in the mystery of the Cross, Mary becomes our Mother.

Mary is in fact our Mother and also the first apostle of Jesus. The celebration of the mystery of the Annunciation invites us to renew our consecration to Jesus through Mary our Mother. In the mysteries of the Annunciation and the Cross, Mary chose to share in her Son's mission of love and peace. To be formed in, by, with and for Mary is always to choose the way of the Cross, which is the way of peace and love. Mary our Mother is the mother of the Prince of Peace and the first Apostle of Peace. To become children of Mary is also to become apostles of peace. On this Solemnity of the Annunciation, we are invited to become bearers of love and peace. In this moment of grace, let us think of those who suffer because of war, conflict and violence, in particular our confreres and the suffering people of Haiti. May we dedicate our lives to promoting love and peace in our respective lives and missions.

Happy Solemnity of the Annunciation



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma WATUN".

Fr. Yoseph Putra Dwi Darma WATUN, SMM
Superior General