

Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Homily of Bishop Barres

St. Agnes Cathedral

May 31 2023

This past weekend we celebrated the Solemnity of Pentecost and will celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity next weekend and the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ the following weekend.

On this last day of May, we remember that May is the month of Mary.

Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth.

Mary has many beautiful titles. We recently celebrated last Monday Mary as “Mother of the Church.”

It could also be said that, in the Visitation, Mary is the “Queen of practical charity in our extended families.”

Mary anticipates the Parable of the Good Samaritan as she bears the burden of travel to visit and serve her elderly cousin Elizabeth.

What a beautiful moment when John the Baptist leaps *in útero*. in the womb of Elizabeth as Mary approaches with the child Jesus in her womb.

From Elizabeth’s womb to his martyrdom, St. John the Baptist teaches us to be always sensitive and alert to the presence of Christ.

He teaches us, in this time of Eucharistic Revival, to “Behold the Lamb of God.”

As we know, the Visitation is the Second Joyful Mystery that we pray daily on our Rosaries.

This Feast of the Visitation is a good day to recommit ourselves to the Rosary and to pray it deeply with devotion and prayerful concentration.

With the intercession of Our Lady and St. Elizabeth, the power of the Rosary helps to bring peace, harmony and unity within our marriages and families.

How life-changing the Rosary can be for a home! All husbands and wives experience hurts, conflict, differences of temperament or personality, disagreements about duties and tasks, hurtful words that wound, misunderstandings, pride and self-will.

The Rosary brings light and grace into these areas of darkness.

The contemplative rhythm of the Rosary (or just a decade prayed together daily) can help couples to begin to change negative and abrasive relational patterns into a new rhythm of intimacy, gentleness, humility, forgiveness and refined fidelity.

These movements of grace have a profound impact on their children and extended family and their daily parenting.

The spirit of prayer behind the Rosary points out that marriages are deepened and strengthened in unity, fidelity and indissolubility when a couple focuses on the love and will of God **together**.

It is also a powerful prayer for harmonious relationships and healing between parents, their sons and daughters and all family members.

The spiritual lessons we learn in our families, our “domestic churches,” are expressed in the mission of the Church to the world.

We are all called to be missionaries and catechists of the Holy Rosary.

Mary, Mother of the Church, Queen of the Visitation and Queen of the Rosary, pray for us!

St. Joseph, pray for us!

St. Elizabeth, pray for us!

St. John the Baptist, pray for us!