

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 13, 2019

The month of October is dedicated by Mother Church as a time to again venerate the mother of Christ and our mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary. Let's spend this time we have today to do just that.

In 1984, a professional writer Mark Lowry and a musician Buddy Green wrote what has become a very popular song. It is sung primarily at Christmas and Easter and has been performed by singers from all music genres. It asks the question, "**Mary, did you know?**"

In Luke's Gospel chapter one, in the beginning of the story of Jesus, we see that the angel came to tell her that her son would be great. "**He will be the Son of the Most High and of his kingdom there will be no end.**" Therefore Mary knew, because the angel Gabriel told her so.

The Gospel goes on to tell us that Mary made the long journey to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who in her old age was also pregnant. When Mary greeted her cousin, the baby in Elizabeth's womb leaped and Elizabeth asked her, "**How does this happen that the mother of my Lord should come to me?**" We recite Mary's reply when we pray the Canticle of Mary: "**Behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed.**" Mary, did you know?

Moving on to chapter two of Luke's Gospel, we see the Baby Jesus a short time after his birth presented in the Temple, as was the custom. A devout and righteous man named Simeon took the Baby Jesus in his arms and proclaimed, "**Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation.**" Simeon went on to tell Mary that she would be pierced by a sword, referring to the suffering that would come to her. Mary did you know?

There is even more proof in Luke chapter two. Remember the story of the family's annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem when Jesus was twelve years old. In the confusion of preparing to leave, Jesus became separated from the family. A day's journey from Jerusalem, suddenly they realized that Jesus was not in the group. Which meant a day's journey back. They frantically searched the city for three days. By my count, that's five days. Five days! Any mother would have been distraught. Where did they find him? In the Temple, teaching. Can you imagine Mary's almost hysterical question, "**Why have you done this to us?**" And his matter of fact reply, "**Why are you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's House?**" The Gospel goes on to say, ". . . and his mother kept all these things in her heart." Mary, did you know?

Moving to the Gospel of John, chapter two, we find the story of the Wedding at Cana. We know this story well. They ran out of wine. Today, that would mean that the party is over. But not this time. Remember that Mary told Jesus, "**They're out of wine.**" Jesus questioned how did this affect him? She didn't explain what she expected. She didn't lay it out step-by-step. Mary knew what he was capable of. She simply told the servers, "**Do whatever he tells you.**"

Did she know that he would walk on water, that he would give sight to the blind; that he had the power to calm the storm with a wave of his hand? Maybe she didn't completely understand all that he would do, but I believe she knew he was more than capable of all these and more. I believe she knew of his part in the mystery of creation. And I believe that even today she continues to intercede, whispering in Jesus' ear her prayer for each of us this day. Do we dare ask, Mary did you know?