

# Mary

How touching it is, when we picture to ourselves the sweet mystery of Mary's presentation, to behold that tender Child, so beautiful, so modest, so graceful and so pure, prostrate in the glorious temple of God, consecrating herself entirely and irrevocably to her Creator, vowing her untarnished virginity to the August Trinity. Surely the Angels before the Throne of the Most High must have experienced a thrill of exultation as the unexampled act of Mary's consecration swiftly sped heavenwards to the Heart of God Himself. The future life of Mary in the temple was in perfect accord with her act of consecration. It is at times comparatively easy, under a powerful inspiration, during a moment of fervor, to make a tremendous sacrifice; but when the ardor of that moment has cooled and the attractions of the world again allure us, we may easily fall away from the spirit of our consecration and take back part, if not the whole, of what we promised and gave to God. Such was not the case with the Child, Mary. Never for a moment did she take back one iota of what she had given to God with heroic generosity. Her whole life was a continuous repetition of the act whereby she immolated herself on the morning of her Presentation. Shall we ever worthily estimate the blessings which the example of the Virgin of Nazareth has produced in this world by means of that beautiful institution of Christianity, the religious life, of which she is the model? Her example has ever shone brightly, in the midst of a corrupt and sinful world, as a beacon light guiding souls onward in the path of perfect holiness. □

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