

# Reflections

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## The Faithful Virgin

1. Undoubtedly, we have heard a great deal about the crisis of faithfulness and on what true faithfulness is, that which is expected of a Christian. But the question is if these explanations have touched us intimately, if they have reached our heart? What we are lacking, perhaps, is a vital and lived synthesis of what we have heard. **What we are lacking is a model, an example of faithfulness which will convince us.** Thus we also want to experience and touch faithfulness in a concrete person. And this person, model of human faithfulness, is Mary: the faithful Virgin.

2. **Faithfulness and love always go together**, they are in agreement because love is the soul of faithfulness. Faithfulness without love is stubbornness. And love which is not faithful is not authentic love since it is not lasting.

3. **What is Mary's first love?** The Gospel of the Annunciation helps us see the hour which changes Mary's life and changes world history. God asks her to be the mother of his Son. And in this moment her first love is born, the great love of her life: the love for her Son, Jesus Christ. Decidedly and joyfully She accepts her new mission saying her: "Fiat, Let it be done to me according to your word."

**She knows that her FIAT is not a "yes" for an hour, but a "yes" for a lifetime.** From now on, all her love, her surrender and her faithfulness will be dedicated to her Son. And an inseparable bi-unity between Mary and her Son begins. She is with Him as companion and collaborator in the great moments of salvation history, from the Annunciation to her Assumption.

4. The gift of her first love has to be proven in life. It is not a completed gift, it is a gift which Mary has to conquer each time ever moreso perfectly. Because true faithfulness is faithfulness proven and virtuous, that which is everlasting through the torments of life.

And faithfulness to her first love already soon suffers difficult trials. In the first place, her difficult situation facing Joseph her betrothed to whom she cannot explain what has happened to her. Then the birth of her Son in solitude and misery.

And as the first result of the birth of the Savior, the killing of the innocents. And Mary has to flee at night with her family to strange lands and live there as refugees. And thus continue the trials and demands from God for more than thirty years. And always anew, She repeats – without understanding it all – the "yes" from the first hour, the "yes" of her vocation and of her faithfulness.

5. And then comes the hour of Calvary. She is there at the foot of the Cross, almost alone. The others have disappeared, as it often happens at the hour of trials. And in that dark moment, Mary gives her last and definite FIAT. And this is the one which truly counts. She, at Calvary, is truly Mother, **because one is truly Mother when one gives all.** And Mary surrenders the only thing She has: her Son Jesus.

And in this moment of total surrender, the Crucified Lord chooses Her to give his Mother to us, her new Children. And since then we are included in her first love. And because She has earlier given herself totally to her Son Jesus, from then on She surrenders all her faithfulness and love to her children in the great family of the Church. Faithfulness to the person of Christ necessarily extends to the faithfulness of the Church, the community, the family of Christ.

6. After the Ascension of the Lord, Mary begins to act like the Mother of the primitive Church. She gathers the apostles and first Christians in the Cenacle and implores the Holy Spirit with them. Her mission as Mother of the Church becomes still more present after her Assumption. She can now fulfill it in all its universality and depth: She can be Mother, fully, to all her own and give to each one the love, the help and the protection they need.

During all her history, the Church has experienced this extraordinary love and this unlimited faithfulness of Mary. Therefore she has so much confidence, respect and love for her Mother.

### Questions for reflection

1. Like Mary, have I been faithful in the trials of life?
2. Am I faithful in my marriage?

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