

# MARY OUR SISTER IN FAITH

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**Start your meeting with prayer. Someone read: Luke 1: 35-40**

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth.



## **Pope Francis' April 2018 Intention**

**Universal:** For Those who have Responsibility in Economic Matters; That economists may have the courage to reject any economy of exclusion and know how to open new paths.

## **Listen to the cd or read the script.**

The song is *Woman for Today* from the Album *Dare to Dream* by Michael Herry FMS

## **Share from these reflection starters:**

- Silently re-read the Scripture: what strikes you.
- Paul VI describes Mary as "*truly our sister, who, as a poor and humble woman, fully shared our lot.*" (Marialis Cultus 1974) .  
How do you react to "Mary as your sister"?
- *In Vatican II Mary is understood primarily as a member of the Church, one of us, ...one who models what all disciples are called to.*" What does it mean to you to be a Marist disciple?
- How can understanding Mary's role in the church and the world this way, help bring a deeper ecumenical understanding of Mary and our Catholic perspective?

## **Closing Prayer**

**Mary, our good mother, our sister,  
our mentor our friend,**

we thank you for your risk in saying 'yes'  
that led to your stepping out in freedom  
following the path that Jesus trod  
from Bethlehem to the Cross.

Keep watch on our faltering steps  
as we, in turn, tread the path of Christ in our world,  
where we proclaim that God in Jesus loves us.

Coax the 'yes' from our lips and hearts  
that we may boldly walk with you,  
our sister disciple and loving mother  
on the road of God's reign among us,  
Amen.