

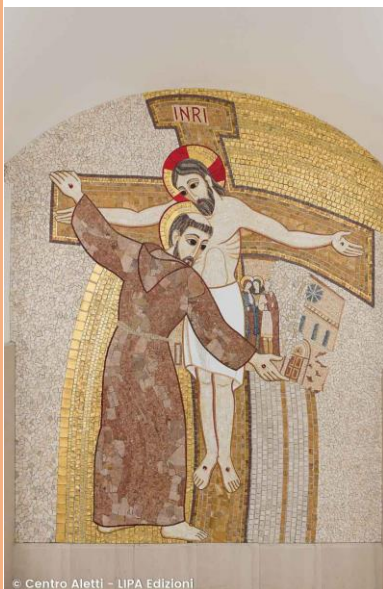
800th Jubilee Celebration of the SECOND LETTER TO THE FAITHFUL (1221) St. Francis of Assisi

⁴⁸And *the Spirit of the Lord will rest upon all those men and women who have done and persevered in these things and It will make a home and dwelling place in them.*

⁴⁹And they will be the children of the heavenly Father, Whose works they do.

⁵⁰And they are spouses, brothers and mothers of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Second Letter to the Faithful #48-50



Francis of Assisi is moved by the evangelical urgency for proclaiming the Father's Word and the words of the Holy Spirit "which are spirit and life." Not a spirituality out of the reality, but a Spirit that is life, who becomes flesh and is true life-giver in fullness. Francis presents this great mystery of grace that is the Christian life which is born from the outpouring of the Spirit, and then it develops in the richness of the relationship of charity among the Holy Trinity. To those who hear and serve the Gospel, Francis assures that the Spirit of the Lord will rest in them and they will become his dwelling place. They will be children of the Father and spouses, brothers and mothers of Jesus Christ.

A life lived according to the Gospel becomes a comfortable place that gives hospitality and a place where God may find dwelling. Being God's dwelling place, the believer thus becomes a sacred space in which every other person, by meeting him, also meets God.

In becoming God's dwelling place, therefore, this is not an intimate solitary experience but it expresses itself and opens up to vivify all the most beautiful expressions of the relationship with God and in Him of the relationships with brothers and sisters. Being

brothers and sisters, spouses and mothers indicate relationships that touch the deepest sphere of the person, involving spirit, soul, body, and therefore, mind, heart, will and works.

Mary is for us the one who in a sublime way and for excellence is the dwelling place of the Son of God. She is the one who has lived in the fullness of her being Mother, Bride and Sister.

For Reflection:

- What does it mean for me to be God's dwelling place? How do I take care of God's dwelling place which is my body, my mind, my heart, my spirit?
- In this time of social distance, our relationships have undergone changes. How do I live out the creativity of love by seeking new effective ways to care for relationships?
- In what ways do I care for my relationship with Mary?

Let us pray:

Hail, holy Lady, Most holy Queen, Mary, Mother of God, Ever Virgin; Chosen by the most holy Father in heaven, Consecrated by him, With his most holy beloved Son and the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.

On you descended and in you still remains all the fullness of grace and every good.

Hail, his Palace. Hail, his Tabernacle. Hail, his Robe. Hail, his Handmaid. Hail, his Mother. And Hail, all holy Virtues, Who, by the grace and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Are poured into the hearts of the faithful so that, faithless no longer, they may be made faithful servants of God through you.

(St. Francis, Salutation of the Blessed Virgin – Omnibus of Sources)

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Original in Italian*