

## Commentary on the Gospel for Wed, May 31st 2017

Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Happy Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary! I started to ponder over this reflection after attending St. Cecilia's Cathedral celebration of the first appearances of the Virgin Mary on May 13, 1917 in Fatima, Portugal. Throughout the celebration I found myself choking up while reflecting on how much my life has changed over these past decades. The genesis of my life transformation took place when I lost my job. Several years ago, I worked for a law firm here in Omaha. I took three months for maternity leave after the birth of my first son. When I was ready to go back to work, I was advised that my services were no longer needed. While devastated at the time, I can look back and realize what a blessing this time was for me and my family. I chose to become a stay at home mom and had two additional babies. I deepened and grew in my faith and eventually made my way to the Catholic Church. During that journey, I found Mary and how much I love her. Happy Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary!

I am telling you this story because here at Creighton University, by the end of May 2017 (which is today!), approximately 60 of us employees will have heard the words that our services are no longer needed.

“Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged!

The LORD, your God, is in your midst,

a mighty savior;

He will rejoice over you with gladness,

and renew you in his love.”

Zephaniah 3:16-17

Let us follow Mary's exemplary example of discipleship in loving and caring for one another during our time of need. Just as Mary set out “in haste” to be with Elizabeth, may we come together as a community “in haste” to demonstrate our servant's hearts and trust in God.

“God indeed is my savior;

I am confident and unafraid.

My strength and my courage is the LORD,

And he has been my savior.”

Isaiah 12:2

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