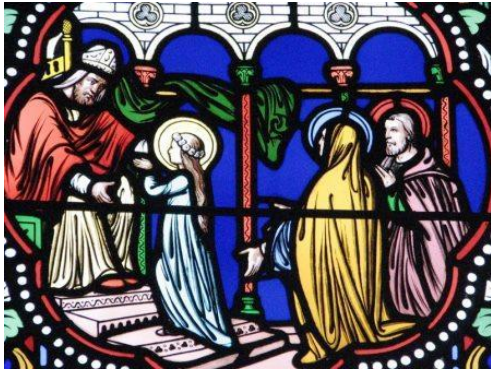


Let us be authentic temples of God!

Liturgically, the month of November is very rich. Let's focus on a Marian feast celebrated on November 21: **the Presentation of Mary** in the Temple.



This episode in the life of Mary is not found in the four gospels but in an apocryphal book, the Protevangelium of James, which was not retained by the Church to enter the canon of Scripture. It gives us beautiful traditions.

We learn that Ann and Joachim, Mary's parents, presented her in the temple at the age of three to consecrate her to God. They wanted to thank him for the birth of their child with an act of consecration. The little girl climbs the steps of the building alone, to everyone's astonishment. The spiritual message is clear: Mary has always been entirely destined for God alone. This story recalls the one of little Samuel. His mother, Ann, entrusted him to the Temple to thank God for having given her a son. We will also find another Ann, an elderly woman, who welcomes and recognizes Jesus in the Temple when Mary and Joseph come to present their son. All these characters underline the **importance of the Temple**.

Jesus, to everyone's amazement, announces the destruction of this Temple which will be rebuilt in three days. He is speaking of the temple of his Body.

Mary prefigures the temple which each believer is called to become. By carrying Jesus in her womb, she becomes the dwelling place of God, the temple which shelters him.

We ourselves are called to become the temple of God. We are invited to abide in him as he abides in us.

Christine PETTINARI
International Coordinator of the Rosary Teams

