

Children of Mary

THE PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE



The feast of the Presentation of the first born Child of Mary in the Temple over two thousand years ago is celebrated every year on 2nd February. This year, we also celebrated the presentation of six other children of Mary at the altar of the Chapel of the Most Holy Trinity in Palayamkottai. Six young ladies committed themselves to live by the rule of the Sodality of the Children of Mary in front of the Blessed Sacrament. They are the first here in India and will surely be followed by many more.



“Show thyself to be a mother.”

“Receive, my child, this ribbon and medal as the livery of the Immaculate Mary, and the mark of your consecration to this tender Mother. Remember while wearing it to prove yourself her worthy child, by the innocence and holiness of your life.”

Who are the Children of Mary?

The Children of Mary is a sodality or group whose members desire to consecrate themselves to the Blessed Virgin Mary in order that they may enjoy her special patronage, that is, they desire to be her loving children so that she may be to them an even more loving mother. Of course, Mary is the mother of all the faithful, but for those who consecrate them-

selves to her, the obstacles to her tender care are removed so that she may shower them with an abundance of graces.

The Sodality began as a gathering of the most fervent pupils of a Belgian Jesuit priest, Fr. John Léon, in Rome in 1563. It was originally established for boys, but later (1751) girls sodalities were permitted and by the 19th century, it was (for

THE ACT OF CONSECRATION

O Mary, conceived without sin, I, wishing this day to place myself under thy special protection, choose thee for my patroness, my mistress, and my mother. At thy feet I make the firm resolution of doing all in my power to procure thy glory and to extend thy service. I desire henceforth to make a solemn profession of belonging unreservedly to thee, walking in thy glorious footsteps, and imitating thy virtues, particularly thy angelic purity, thy profound humility, thy blind obedience, and thy incomparable charity. This is the engagement I make at the foot of thy altar, in the presence of the heavenly court. Obtain for me, O tender Mother, the grace of being faithful to it all my life, that I may merit the favour of being thy child during all eternity. Amen.



The Candlemas Procession followed the ceremony.

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better or worse) exclusively for girls. The sodality flourished in English speaking countries particularly in the first half of the 20th century, but like most traditional pious groups, declined after the Second Vatican Council.

Rules of the Sodality

The rules of the Sodality are not difficult in themselves, but they do nevertheless require effort, or even more important, they require supernatural charity. Members commit themselves to morning and evening prayers (together with an examination of conscience), to the recitation of the rosary, to 15 minutes of mental prayer or spiritual reading and to a visit to the Blessed Sacrament (if possible) each day and to frequent Mass and Holy Communion (together with 15 minutes of thanksgiving).

How to be a Member

If the Sodality of the Children of Mary does not yet exist in your Mass Centre, then send an email to sspxindia@gmail.com to request a handbook.



Sr. Maria Immaculata was in Italy on 2nd February and so could only send her children a letter to congratulate them and encourage them. The attention with which this letter is being read speaks volumes.

You can then give this to your pastor. If there are enough young ladies (six or more), then the Sodality will be viable.

Epilogue

This side of heaven there is nothing more beautiful than virtue. The most breathtaking panorama, the most captivating vista lifts the spirit less than to behold

a sublime act of virtue. On the Feast of the Presentation we saw six young ladies choose Mary as their mother, promising to live their lives in imitation of her—and our hearts rejoiced. The penultimate verse of the Book of Proverbs was never so fitting a tribute: *Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: the woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. (Prov. 31 v.30)*



Children of Mary: Anne-Sophie, Jacinta, Elizabeth, Mary Rita, Margaret Mary and Jyoti.