



Of Seeds and Flowers



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It began with the simple cry of a baby.

This issue of "Of Seeds and Flowers" has the power, the potential to touch your heart, **your Christmases forever**, your faith, your understanding of the Incarnation, increase your love for The Holy Family and more!!
HONEST! TRULY!

It all happened for me two years ago when Cindy, my wife, ordered two books; "The Life of the Blessed Virgin Mary" and "The Dolorous Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ" both detailing the visions of Anne Catherine Emmerich, an Augustinian nun, (1774-1824). She was beatified by Pope John Paul II.

From 1812 until her death in 1824 she bore the Stigmata of our Lord in her hands and feet and wounds from the crown of thorns on her head. In her later years she lived for long periods almost entirely on water and the Holy Eucharist. -a very holy woman!! God gifted her for a reason- FOR US!! -to touch our hard hearts!

The books are filled with specific details that supplement and illustrate the Biblical narratives in a way that makes the already alive Biblical passages richer in detail. Her detailed visions led archeologists to discover the site of the Blessed Virgin's home near Ephesus where Mary lived out her last years..

During Lent of 2018 and 2019, I prayed through "The Dolorous Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ" -most fruitful, deeply touching. As the book cover says: **"Here is a book that will melt a heart of stone." IT DOES!!**

The verification and authentication of her visions are detailed in the first 60 pages of "The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ". You can find some moving information on Mary/Ephesus and Anne Catherine on YouTube. Put some meat on the bones of your faith and spiritual life; generate some new life, fresh faith and trust. **These books will do it! Chapters in the "The Life of the Blessed Virgin" include: Our Lady's Ancestors, The Immaculate Conception, Early Life of Joseph, Marriage of Mary to Joseph, The Annunciation, The Visitation etc..**

"There are still many other things that Jesus did, yet if they were written about in detail, I doubt there would be room enough in the entire world to hold the books to record them." John 21:25.

THE BIRTH OF JESUS- THE VISIONS OF ANNE CATHERINE EMMERICH: "Joseph prepared a sleeping place for the Blessed Virgin. He first made a mattress of rushes, and then spread on it a coverlet. At the head he put a rolled up rug. As the Sabbath had now begun, he stood with the Blessed Virgin under the lamp, reciting the Sabbath prayers with her, after which they ate their little meal in the spirit of great piety. Joseph then left the cave and went into the town, while Mary wrapped herself up to lie down to rest. During Joseph's absence I saw for the first time the Blessed Virgin kneeling in prayer. She knelt on her couch, and then lay down on the coverlet on her side. Her head rested on her arm, which lay on the pillow. Joseph did not come back till late. He was distressed and I think he wept." *(On the way to Bethlehem Joseph kept reassuring Mary that, coming from Bethlehem, he would find suitable lodging)* "He prayed and then lay down meekly on his couch at the entrance of the cave. The Blessed Virgin spent the Sabbath in the cave of the Nativity in prayer and meditation and in great spiritual fervor. Joseph went out several times probably to the synagogue in Bethlehem. I saw them sharing the food which had been prepared the day before, and praying together.



Mary had told Joseph St Joseph that tonight at midnight would be the hour of the child's birth, for then the nine

months since the Annunciation would have been complete. She begged him to do all that was possible on his part so that they might show as much honor as they could to the Child promised by God and supernaturally conceived. She asked him, too, to join with her in praying for the hard-hearted people who had refused to give them shelter. Joseph suggested to the Blessed Virgin that he should summon to her assistance some pious women whom he knew in Bethlehem. She declined, however, saying that she needed no human help. When Joseph came back into the cave and stood at the entrance to his sleeping place looking toward the Blessed Virgin, he saw her face turned toward the east, kneeling on the bed facing away from him. He saw her as it were surrounded by flames, the whole cave was as if filled with supernatural light. He gazed at her...then he went into his little cell in holy awe and threw himself on his face in prayer.



I saw the radiance round the Blessed Virgin ever growing greater. The light of the lamps which Joseph had lit was no longer visible. Our Lady knelt on her rug in an ample un-girt robe spread out round her, her face turned towards the east. At midnight she was wrapped in an ecstasy of prayer. I saw her lifted from the earth, so that I saw the ground beneath her. Her hands were crossed on her breast. The radiance about her increased; everything, even things without life were in a joyful inner motion, the stones of the roof, of the walls, of the floor of the cave became as it were alive in the light. Then I no longer saw the roof of the cave; a pathway of light opened above Mary, rising with ever increasing glory towards the height of Heaven. In this pathway of light there was a wonderful movement of glories interpenetrating each other, and, as they approached, appearing more clearly in the form of choirs of heavenly spirits. Meanwhile the Blessed Virgin, borne up in ecstasy, was now gazing downwards, adoring her God, whose mother she had become and who lay on the earth before her in the form of a helpless newborn child. I saw our Redeemer as a tiny Child, shining with a light that overpowered all the surrounding radiance, and lying on the carpet at the Blessed Virgin's knees. It seemed to me as if He were at first quite small and then grew before my eyes. But the movement of the intense radiance was such that I cannot say for certain how I saw it.

The Blessed Virgin remained for some time wrapped in ecstasy. I saw her laying a cloth over the Child, but at first she did not touch him or take him up. After some time I saw the Child Jesus move and heard Him cry. Then Mary seemed to come to herself, and she took the Child from the carpet, wrapping Him in the cloth which covered Him, and held Him in her arms to her breast. She sat there enveloping herself and the Child completely in her veil and I think Mary suckled the Redeemer. I saw angels round her in human forms, lying on their faces and adoring the Child. It might have been an hour after His birth when Mary called St. Joseph, who was still lying in prayer. When he came near he threw himself on his face in devout joy and humility. It was only when Mary begged him to take to his heart, in joy and thankfulness, the holy presence of the Most High God, that he stood up, took the Child Jesus in his arms, and praised God with tears of joy.

The Blessed Virgin then wrapped the Child Jesus in swaddling bands. I cannot remember how these bands were wound round; I only know that the Child was wrapped to his armpits first in red and then white bands, and that His head and shoulders were wrapped in another little cloth. Mary had only four sets of swaddling bands with her. Then I saw Mary and Joseph sitting side-by-side on the bare earth with their feet under them. They did not speak, and seemed both to be sunk in meditation. On the carpet before Mary lay the newborn Jesus in swaddling clothes, a little child, beautiful and radiant as lightning. Ah, I thought, this place enshrines the salvation of the whole world, and no one guesses it. Then they laid the child in the manger, which was filled with rushes and delicate plants and covered with a cloth hanging over the sides.... After laying the child in the crib, they both stood beside him giving praise to God with tears of joy. Joseph then arranged the Blessed Virgin's resting place and her seat beside the crib. Both before and after the birth of Jesus I saw her dressed in white and veiled. I saw her there in the first days after the Nativity, sitting, kneeling standing and sleeping on her side, wrapped up but in no way ill or exhausted. When people came to see her, she wrapped herself up more closely and sat upright on her lying-in coverlet.

I saw tonight some of the flocks and herds out in the open by the hill of the three shepherds. I saw them in a shed. When Jesus was born, I saw the three Shepherds standing together before their hut, marveling at the wonderful

light. They looked about them, and were astonished to see a wonderful radiance over the place where the Cave of the Nativity was....The shepherds were at first afraid, but forthwith an Angel stood before them and spoke to them: "Fear not," he said, "for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy that shall be to all the people; for this day is born to you a savior, who is Christ the Lord in the city of David. And this shall be a sign unto you. You shall find the infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger." While the angel was announcing this the radiance around him increased and I now saw 5 or 7 beautiful great shiny forms of angels standing before the shepherds. They were holding in their hands a long scroll on which was written something in letters as big as one's hand, and I heard them praising God and singing "Glory be to God in the highest and on earth peace to men of goodwill."

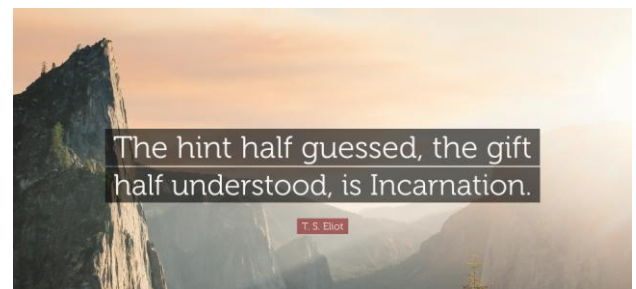
The time the Child Jesus was born my soul made countless journeys to all parts of the world, to see the wonderful happenings at the birth of Our Savior. As, however, I was very ill and tired, it often seemed to me as if the pictures came to me instead of I to them. etc.etc....I have seen countless events, but have forgotten most of them because of much suffering and many disturbances...." - and more and more and more....

READ THIS AGAIN, AND AGAIN, WITH YOUR HEART; SLOWLY! *BE THERE* WITH MARY AND JOSEPH. YOU KNOW, IN YOUR HEART, THAT THIS IS THE WAY IT WAS. -SO NATURAL , SO SUPERNATURAL!! ALL FOR YOU!! "And the Word became flesh." and, "Those who accepted Him He empowered to become children of God." John 1. Give yourself a Christmas present. Get these two books that will touch your heart, with melting love, for years and years ahead. -a treasure!! Saint Benedict Press, Charlotte, N.C. Tan Books.

Jesus was an unplanned pregnancy!

Mary was an unwed mother!

Old Irish Blessing: *"May love and peace be the first to lift the latch on your door and the Christ Child be guided to your home by the light of your heart! "*



"THERE IS SUCH RICHNESS AND GOODNESS IN THE NATIVITY THAT IF WE SHOULD SEE AND DEEPLY UNDERSTAND, WE SHOULD BE DISSOLVED IN PERPETUAL JOY." - MARTIN LUTHER



SMILE: Financially, it is becoming more difficult to produce "**Of Seeds and Flowers**". If you are able to help, from time to time, it will give us the ability to keep sharing! **One thing you can do, if you buy items on Amazon** , is to sign on to their donation program called "Smile". It only takes a minute. Choose Mary's Field as your charity. **Amazon will donate** 1% of your total order to Mary's Field, **taking no money from your order or account.** Once you sign up, all is done **automatically if you use Amazon's identical website at smile.amazon.com.** You will make all future orders as you have always done in the past. Thank You!!! Mary's. Field. P.O. Box 99 Hebron Ct. 06248 Many Hugs! Mary's Field is touching about 900 people a month!! -and YOU are a part of each touch!! God likes this!!

If you like "Of Seeds and Flowers" SHARE IT! Be a part of the change you want to see in the world.

"In Great Silence" is the name of a spectacular film celebrating the lives of a Carthusian monks on Youtube - mostly done in silence by a German photographer. The photographer asked the monks if he could make a documentary of their life style in 1984. SIXTEEN years later the monks said, "Yes." I recommend watching the film in one sitting.

Once I believed that God existed, I knew I had to give myself completely to Him - Charles de Foucauld

"For those who believe, no proof is necessary. For those who don't believe, no proof is possible."

SPEAKING SOFTLY

ANNUNCIATION OF MARY: The following is from a beautiful little book written by Thomas Keating, *"And the Word Was Made Flesh"*

"The privilege of being the mother of God is so far above and beyond our understanding that the person who enjoyed this favor would seem to belong to another creation.

When the Angels said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you", Mary was disturbed. She did not know what kind of greeting this was. It was as if someone came up to you and said, "Hello, holy one, the Lord is with you." You would reply, are you sure you have the right person?' This was substantially Mary's response. The angel did not say, "Hello, deserving one. Our lady never laid claim to any of her privileges. She simply knew how to accept them. And this is something we do not know how to do. It was not easy for her to believe what God was doing because it was so incredible: "You will be the mother of God's Son." She realized all the implications of that message. That is why she was troubled.

We also are favored people. We need to imitate Mary's acceptance of God's gift. Psychologically, each of us thinks quite differently: *"There must be some mistake. It can't be me that God has chosen. It can't be me for whom God's son has died. It can't be me who sins are all forgiven through the blood of Christ. It can't be me who has eternal life. It can't be me who has been given divine son or daughter ship, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, victory over sin and death, and union with all people on earth."* In the dazzling light of Mary's astonishing giftedness, we are invited to recall our own. As we admire the humility and graciousness with which she accepted God's Word and believed his incredible promises, we beg for the grace to believe in his promises to us.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, O Highly FAVORED FRIEND OF MINE!!!



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