



THE CHILD IN THE WOMB AND A DAY OF PRAYER

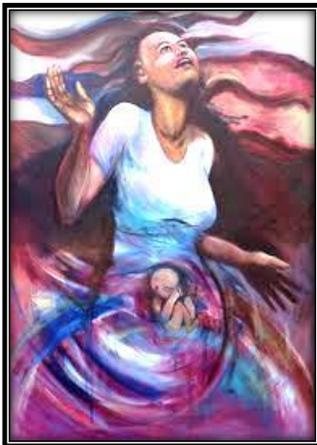
When Christians think of the great things the Almighty has done for us, we readily remember **the Child in Mary's womb** that sent her *in haste to the hill country and into the house of Zechariah*, moved *the child in the womb of Saint Elizabeth to leap for joy at the sound of the Child's arrival*, and inspired Mary to sing that beautiful Hymn of Praise – the Magnificat:

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour. For He has looked with favour on His lowly servant; from this day all generations will call me blessed. The Almighty has done great things for me, and Holy is His Name. He has mercy on those who fear Him, in every generation. He has shown the strength of His arm, He has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things; and the rich He has sent away empty. He has come to the help of His servant Israel, for He has remembered His promise of mercy; the promise He made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever” (Saint Luke I: 46-55).



Yes, before angels ever proclaimed the *good news of great joy to shepherds*; before those shepherds *went in haste and found Mary, Saint Joseph, and the Infant lying in the manger*; before *Magi from the East entered the house and saw the Child with Mary His Mother*: **the Child in the womb** of Mary was bringing joy to the world!

After a challenging nine months in Mary's womb, the time would come for the Child to be born and provide the promised-joy that devout Jews like Mary and Saint Joseph were waiting for, and Gentiles like the Magi from the East were searching for. Angels would sing about the Child. Shepherds would glorify and praise God for all they had seen and heard about the Child. The Magi would offer the Child gifts of gold (royalty), frankincense (Divinity), and myrrh (humanity). And *King Herod would search for the Child to destroy Him; ordering the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under* (cf. Saint Matthew II: 13-16).



More than two thousand years after King Herod failed in his attempts, the assault on the Child continues! And while ISIS and Boko Haram with their persecutions of Christians overseas and the ACLU with its attack on Christianity in the USA all warrant our attention, prayers, and action, there is another Herodian-force that is claiming the lives of our fellow man without regard to his race, language, colour, sex, or dignity. And that is Planned Parenthood!

Please, as our nation (with very little coverage on television or the newspaper) on 22 January 2018 sadly commemorates the 45th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is asking that “all the Dioceses of the United States of America, **observe 22 January as a particular day of prayer** for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion. Please consider participating in this **Day of Prayer** in any one or more of the following ways:

1. Attend Mass (7:30 A.M., 12:10 P.M.);
2. Make a Holy Hour (Visit the Blessed Sacrament);
3. Read Saint Mark's Gospel;
4. Pray the Rosary;
5. Pray the Stations of the Cross;
6. Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy;
7. Limit yourself to only one full meal;
8. Abstain from eating meat

No matter what you do, please be assured to do it in union with Mary and it will become a Song of Praise; a great thing the Almighty has done for ... **the Child in the Womb!**