

December 27, 2020
Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
Reflection CMT Asia



Obedience, offering, patient waiting and encounter; four acts or movement in today's Gospel. Mary and Joseph with reverence, obeyed the Mosaic Law, went up to Jerusalem and presented Jesus in the temple. While Simeon and Anna despite accumulated age zealously

followed the call of the Holy Spirit to give witness to God and proclaim God's salvation in Jesus. This scenario brought me back to what Blessed Francisco Palau said in his book *My Relation with the Church*, "Through the vow of obedience I will faithfully await your commands and will be subject to your orders" (MR 2,6). With this, we may ask ourselves: How devout am I to follow the Law to maintain order to my lives and of the others? How open and sensitive I am to the movement of the Holy Spirit who does new things in life?

Jesus was presented in the temple, presentation equates offering, a sacrificial offering of his life through love, to save humankind and change the universe; that we through our baptismal consecration may live faithfully our lives as a sacrificial offering, so others may live abundantly.

According to Henry Nouwen ninety eight percent of our lives are spent waiting. The attitude while waiting is crucial; we can wait patiently, can be anxious, alert, passive, vigilant, faithful, awake and wise, etc. In the book of Psalms, the psalmist lamented to the Lord saying "How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?" (Ps 13,1). Hence, the evangelist St. Luke says "Be dressed in readiness and keep your lamps lit. (Lk. 12, 35) Moreover, in the Gospel of St. Mark he mentioned "Stay awake, for you don't know when the Lord of the house will come..." In today's Gospel, Simeon was portrayed as a righteous and devout man, awaiting the consolation of Israel...that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord..." Simeon was waiting patiently and faithfully until the fulfillment of prophecy. And when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law... he took him into his arms and blessed God saying: Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace...for my eyes have seen your salvation..." (cf. Lk. 2, 25-29). Simeon's encounter with the child Jesus in its littleness and simplicity affirmed that "God alone is enough, and the rest passes away." His eyes recognized the mystery of God, a God who is very much present in the world, in every human heart and in the whole creation. The God who loves humanity unconditionally. On the other hand, Anna's encounter with the child Jesus gave her a

grateful heart and a prophetic tongue to proclaim the awaiting redemption of Jerusalem. Let us ask God to teach us to be vigilant and wise in our waiting, to be zealous in following His Son Jesus Christ, to grant us the gaze to see Him concretely in the world and in every individual, so we too could have access to the Mystery. So, our life gives witness to the joy, the peace and the love of God – Emmanuel. That possessing him and having him present in our lives is enough for us, for he is our joy.