

# BEC Reflection

HOPE BELIEVE, LIVE and GIVE



## CLOSING PRAYER:

*Invite a BEC member to lead the closing prayer.*

## CLOSING HYMN:

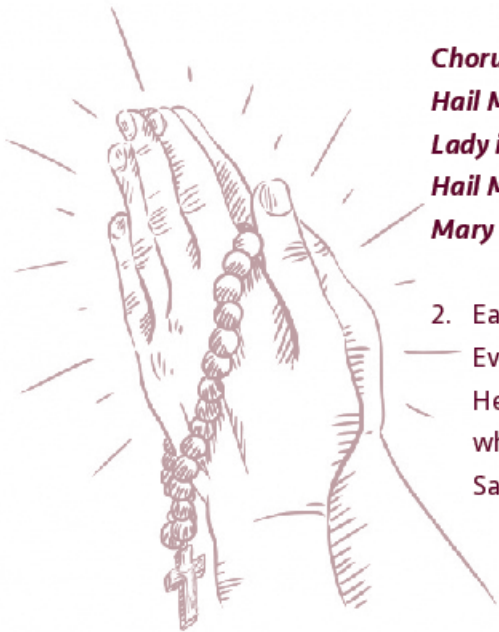
### Mary is My Mother Too

1. The Angle Gabriel announced to Mary  
She would be God's Mother, you see,  
And God was conceived  
by the Holy Ghost,  
And born of the Virgin Mary.

**Chorus:**

*Hail Mary, Mother of God,  
Lady in Blue, I love you.  
Hail Mary, Mother of God,  
Mary is my mother too.*

2. Each day I'll say a little prayer to Mary  
Ev'rywhere, her medal, I'll wear.  
Her Son on the Cross,  
who is Christ our Brother,  
Said, "Behold Thy Mother."



**EVENT:**  
**Assumption of Mary**

**SOCIAL MEDIA TREND:**  
**#mothershope**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister Mary, the wife of Cleophas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, this is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "This is your mother." and from that moment the disciple took her into his home (John 19: 25-27).

## OPENING PRAYER

*Invite a BEC member to lead the opening prayer.*

## OPENING HYMN:

### O come to the throne of Grace

1. O come to the throne of grace!  
O come to the heart most pure!  
To Mary our hope of life,  
In whom salvation is sure.

#### **Chorus:**

***O Queen of the Rosary, hail!  
Immaculate Mother of Grace!  
O pray for us, help us, today  
Thou hope of the human race.***

2. Immaculate heart, we kneel!  
To consecrate all to thee,  
The present, its pain and joy,  
The future, all it may be



## DIALOGUE

On the morning of 10th May 2017, thousands of pilgrims and faithful from around the world gathered at St. Peter's Square to listen to Pope Francis. In his message that day, the Pope said, "In our catechesis on Christian hope, today we look to Mary, Mother of Hope," In her darkest moment, the death of her son on the cross, Mary was there "at the crucial moment: when most friends had vanished because of fear."

According to the Pope, Mary, our Mother of Hope teaches us the virtue of waiting, even when everything seems to lack meaning. She is ever confident in the mystery of God, even when He seems to have eclipsed himself due to the evils of the world. In the most difficult moments, Mary does not get depressed before the difficulty of life nor does she protest violently against a hostile fate. "She is instead" said the Pope, "a woman who listens, who welcomes life as it presents itself, with its happy days but also with its tragedies."

The Gospels record Mary's presence at the cross with a simple verb: she was "standing by", she stood by. They said nothing of her reaction: whether she wept or not... nothing is said to describe her anguish and suffering. The Gospel only says she was "standing by". She stood there, at the worst moment, at the cruellest moment, and she suffered with her son. She "stood by".

In conclusion, Pope Francis stated: She is our mother of Hope. In the midst of that community of disciples, so fragile: one had denied, many had fled, all had been afraid, she simply stood by, in the most natural of ways.

May Mary, the mother whom Jesus gave to all of us, always support our steps and may she always say to our hearts: Arise! Look forward, look to the horizon" for I am the Mother of Hope.

### ***Share your thoughts with your BEC members.***

- Have you had a personal experience where you turned to Mother Mary during a moment of difficulty or desperation, and she "stood by" you? If yes, share the experience.
- What can you learn from Mother Mary about "standing by" those who may be suffering or undergoing struggles in their lives?



## DISCERNMENT

### LUKE: 1: 37-38

Source: Jerusalem Bible

For with God nothing is impossible. Then Mary said "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord! May it be done according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

### PERSONAL REFLECTION:

- READ the text above aloud and LISTEN with openness.
- READ it silently by yourself until a word or phrase touches or strikes you.
- ASK: What is the Holy Spirit saying to me in my heart through the word or phrase?

### SHARE:

- SHARE in small groups (3- 4 persons) the word or phrase that touched you and what you think the Lord is saying to you personally.

### DEEDS:

- Think of a person(s) whom you wish to "stand by" during this period of time. Pray the Rosary at home alone or with the family for this person(s).
- Through His message today, what is God inviting us to do as an individual and as a BEC?