



TRIDUUM OF PREPARATION
for the
NATIVITY OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

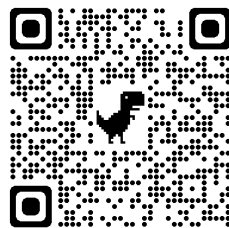


The feast of the ‘Little Child Mary’ is one of the dearest to the piety of Father Hannibal. Testimonies about this particular devotion are innumerable; a witness gave this deposition during the Process of canonization:

‘He loved Our Lady very much, especially the Immaculate and the Child Mary. He wrote many poems and songs that he himself used to sing with us, with his arms raised. The Child Mary was the poetry of his heart. Who can describe the sermons he gave on her feast? With his peculiar simplicity, with a smile and words tenderly and abundantly springing from his lips he used to trans-

port us in spirit to Nazareth, and made us almost wait for Joachim and Anna to give us permission to visit the newly born Mary! These are moments that can be experienced but cannot be described.’

Our Lady wished to give him a sign of her appreciation for the most singular devotion he had to her. She comforted him in his final illness by appearing to him as a little child the day before his death.



COME, AWAKE MY BROTHERS
Rogationist Novices
Batch ‘87-‘88

1. Come awake my brothers in this hour of the night. Let us give thanks to the Father Most High. Through the Virgin Mary His daughter the dawn of our salvation.

2. Come awake my brothers in this hour of the night. Let us adore our Lord Jesus Christ. Through the Virgin Mary His Mother the dawn of our salvation

Refrain: Come let us join in one voice to cry aloud the greatness of the Lord. Even in this late hour of the night, for great is the feast we celebrate today.

It’s the birthday of Mary, It’s the birthday of our Mother, It’s the birthday of the dawn of our salvation.

3. Come let us join in this hour of the night. Let us give praise to the Spirit of Love. Through the Virgin Mary His pure Spouse the dawn of our salvation

TRIDUUM OF PREPARATION

BEFORE VESPERS:

- We greet you, O Mary, who by your birth you brought peace and joy to men; grant us also true peace of heart and joy of spirit. *Hail Mary.*

- We greet you, O Holy Virgin, and we venerate your sacred body, destined to be the tabernacle of the Most High Son of God; may our body, too, always be a living temple of the Holy Spirit. *Hail Mary.*

- We greet you, O Immaculate Virgin, and we rejoice that you have already triumphed over hell and Satan. Give us strength and help us to resist the temptations of the devil, so that we too may triumph over him. *Hail Mary.*

ANTIPHON

Your birth, O Virgin Mother of God, announced joy to the whole world, for from you rose the Sun of Justice, Christ our God, who, removing the curse, brought the blessing and gave us life by triumphing over death.

L. Make me worthy to praise you, O Holy Virgin.

A. Give me strength against your enemies.

PRAYER

Grant us, O Lord, the treasures of your mercy, and since the Virgin's Motherhood marked the beginning of our salvation, may the feast of her nativity make us grow in unity and peace. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF INVITATION TO THE HEAVENLY CHILD MARY

The following prayer of St. Hannibal Mary, in addition to being included in the Vigil of the Child Mary, can be recited as a community during the three days of preparation preceding the feast, or at any time of the day on September 8 itself.

O sweet little baby Mary, O sigh of our hearts... come, come!
O our most desired hope: your Throne here confirm,
O Divine Foundress: rise above us,
O beautiful Morning Star;
spread your scent among us,
O Rose, ever fresh and blooming;
speak to us your words of peace and love,
O purest golden cinnamon of the breath of God.
We desire you, we consecrate our hearts to you,
so that you may give them all to the most Beloved of souls, Jesus, the Supreme Good,
We wait for you to offer all of ourselves to you
in a perfect holocaust of sacred slavery,

and all our spiritual and temporal things.
Come, Adorable Little Baby Girl,
do not delay any longer;
it is true a thousand times that we are very unworthy,
but you are the refuge of sinners,
the harbor and asylum of the most unworthy creatures,
provided they are determined not to offend
but to love your Son always.
And it is precisely this resolution that we bring here,
as the best preparation for your coming.
We never want to offend God,
but to always love him above all things
and to always do his Most Holy Will.
O our beloved St. Anthony of Padua,
hasten the beautiful coming
of the sweet Little Baby Queen
and prepare us worthily to receive her. Amen.

Hail Mary
Glory be

(Scritti, Vol. 57 [3989], 25 August 1906).

VIGIL CELEBRATION OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (VIGIL OF THE CHILD MARY [BAMBINELLA])

OPENING SONG

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A. Amen.

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

A. And with your spirit.

ACCLAMATION

P. Who is this that comes forth like the dawn, as beautiful as the moon, as resplendent as the sun? (cf. Ct 6, 10)

A. Hail, full of grace, humble handmaid, blessed among all women. There has been no one like you and there will be no other (cf. Lk 1:42).

P. A light has shone in the world at the birth of the Virgin: blessed is the lineage, holy is the root, blessed is her fruit.

A. From the stock of Jesse the Virgin has blossomed, made Mother by the Spirit of God.

P. The ineffable beauty of God shines on your face, O Child Mary.

A. You are beautiful in the mystery of your birth: free from every stain of sin and surrounded by the radiance of divine Grace.

P. Mary, Virgin Mother of God, blessed and worthy of all praise, we celebrate your Nativity.

A. We praise the Lord our God for the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

P. Praise be to God the Father, to the only begotten Son, and to the Holy Spirit who has made you, O Mary, the masterpiece of creation, for all ages.

A. Amen.

INTRODUCTION

From the biography Father Mary Hannibal Di Francia. His Life and Works by Fr. Francis Vitale (English edition, p. 364)

On Tuesday morning, feeling a little more relieved, he got up at around 8:00 a.m., after receiving the Holy Communion and praying the usual thanksgiving, and then, sat down in his chair. Brother Lapelosa recounts: "Suddenly his face was happy and radiant; his eyes were sparkling, and full of energy he exclaimed: 'Oh! the Most Holy Child Mary (Santissima Bambinella)! How beautiful she is! How beautiful she is! Look at the twelve stars; look at her little face, oh her little feet! Look, Brother, by the window!' With my heart pounding, I ran here and there, touching the wall, and turned back to the Father to ask for new indications, to which he replied, 'On this side, more... over there, to the right! Further up! You almost touched her!' Alas! I did not have as much faith as the Father's! I was unworthy of such grace! That is why I saw nothing...!"

At the end of the reading, the Presider says:

P. Dear Brothers, this was the great faith and the great love of St. Hannibal Mary for the Child Mary. On this holy night, in which we contemplate the dawn of our salvation, let us keep vigil in prayer according to his example. We invoke her birth and her coming among us with these sweet words of St. Hannibal Mary:

A. O sweet little baby Mary, O sigh of our hearts... come, come!
O our most desired hope: your Throne here confirm,
O Divine Foundress: rise above us, O beautiful Morning Star;
spread your scent among us, O Rose, ever fresh and blooming;
speak to us your words of peace and love,
O purest golden cinnamon of the breath of God.
We desire you, we consecrate our hearts to you,
so that you may give them all to the most Beloved of souls, Jesus,
the Supreme Good,
We wait for you to offer all of ourselves to you
in a perfect holocaust of sacred slavery,
and all our spiritual and temporal things.
Come, Adorable Little Baby Girl,

do not delay any longer;
it is true a thousand times that we are very unworthy,
but you are the refuge of sinners,
the harbor and asylum of the most unworthy creatures,
provided they are determined not to offend but to love your Son always.
And it is precisely this resolution that we bring here,
as the best preparation for your coming.
We never want to offend God,
but to always love him above all things
and to always do his Most Holy Will.
O our beloved St. Anthony of Padua,
hasten the beautiful coming of the sweet Little Baby Queen and prepare us
worthily to receive her. Amen.

Hail Mary

Glory be

(Scritti, Vol. 57 [3989], 25 August 1906).

At the end of the prayer, the image of the Child Mary is unveiled while the *Tota pulchra* is sung. The image is incensed during the singing of the hymn. Alternate hymn on page 2.

Tota pulchra es Maria,
et macula originalis non est in te.

You are all beautiful, Mary,
and in you there is no original sin.

Tu, gloria Jerusalem,
Tu, laetitia Israel,
Tu, honorificentia populi nostri
Tu advocata peccatorum.
O Maria, O Maria.

You are the glory of Jerusalem,
the joy of Israel,
the honor of our people.
the advocate of sinners.
O Mary, O Mary,

Virgo prudentissima,
Mater clementissima.
Ora pro nobis, intercede pro nobis,
ad Dominum Jesum Christum.

Virgin most prudent,
Mother most clement.
Pray for us, intercede for us,
before Christ the Lord.

PSALMODY

Ant. 1

C C/B Am⁷ C/E Dm⁷ Dm/C G G/F C

Ma-ry re-ceived a bles-sing from the Lord and lo-ving kindness from God. her Sa- vior.

Psalm 24

C B^b F/A C

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, *
 the world and all its peoples.
 It is he who set it on the seas; *
 on the waters he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? *
 Who shall stand in his holy place?
 The man with clean hands and pure heart, †
 who desires not worthless things, *
 who has not sworn so as to deceive his neighbor.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord *
 and reward from the God who saves him.
 Such are the men who seek him, *
 seek the face of the God of Jacob.

O gates, lift high your heads; †
 grow higher, ancient doors. *
 Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is the king of glory? †
 The Lord, the mighty, the valiant, *
 the Lord, the valiant in war.

O gates, lift high your heads; †
 grow higher, ancient doors. *
 Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is he, the king of glory? †
 He, the Lord of armies, *
 he is the king of glory.

Glory...

Ant. 1

C C/B Am⁷ C/E Dm⁷ Dm/C G G/F C

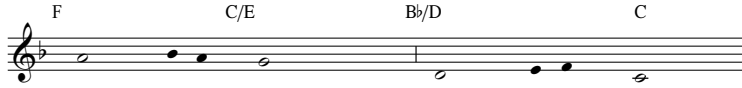
Ma-ry re-ceived a bles-sing from the Lord and lo-ving kindness from God her Sa- vior...

Ant. 2

F C/E B^b9 B^b/A Gm⁷ Gm/F C

The Most High has made his dwell-ing place a ho-ly tem-ple...

Psalm 46



God is for us a refuge and strength, *
 a helper close at hand, in time of distress:
 so we shall not fear though the earth should rock, *
 though the mountains fall into the depths of the sea,
 even though its waters rage and foam, *
 even though the mountains be shaken by its waves.

The Lord of hosts is with us: *
 the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

The waters of a river give joy to God's city, *
 the holy place where the Most High dwells.
 God is within, it cannot be shaken; *
 God will help it at the dawning of the day.
 Nations are in tumult, kingdoms are shaken: *
 he lifts his voice, the earth shrinks away.

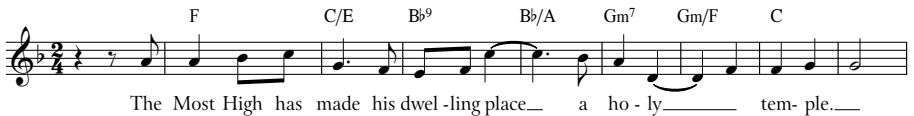
The Lord of hosts is with us: *
 the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Come, consider the works of the Lord, *
 the redoubtable deeds he has done on the earth.
 He puts an end to wars over all the earth; †
 the bow he breaks, the spear he snaps. *
 He burns the shields with fire.
 "Be still and know that I am God, *
 supreme among the nations, supreme on the earth!"

The Lord of hosts is with us: *
 the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Glory...

Ant. 2



Ant. 3



Psalm 87



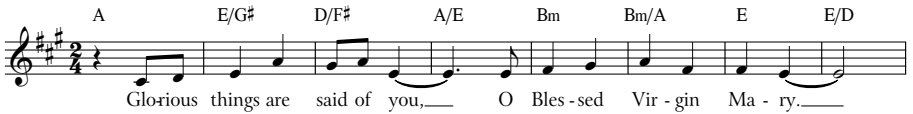
On the holy mountain is his city *
cherished by the Lord.
The Lord prefers the gates of Zion *
to all Jacob's dwellings.
Of you are told glorious things, *
O city of God!

“Babylon and Egypt I will count *
among those who know me;
Philistia, Tyre, Ethiopia, *
these will be her children
and Zion shall be called ‘Mother’ *
for all shall be her children.”

It is he, the Lord Most High, *
who gives each his place.
In his register of peoples he writes: *
“These are her children,”
and while they dance they will sing: *
“In you all find their home.”

Glory..

Ant. 3



L. Blessed are you, Mary, because you believed.
A. The Lord's words to you have been fulfilled.

FIRST READING

From the Book of Genesis

(3:9-20)

The Lord God then called to the man and asked him, “Where are you?” He answered, “I heard you in the garden; but I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself.”

Then he asked, “Who told you that you were naked? You have eaten, then, from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat!”

The man replied, “The woman whom you put here with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, so I ate it.”

The Lord God then asked the woman, “Why did you do such a thing?” The woman answered, “The serpent tricked me into it, so I ate it.”

Then the Lord God said to the serpent: “Because you have done this, you shall be banned from all the animals and from all the wild creatures. On your belly shall you crawl, and dirt shall you eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers. He will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel.”

To the woman he said: “I will intensify the pangs of your childbearing; in pain shall you bring forth children. Yet your urge shall be for your husband, and he shall be your master.”

To the man he said: “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat, “Cursed be the ground because of you! In toil shall you eat its yield all the days of your life. Thorns and thistles shall it bring forth to you, as you eat of the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face shall you get bread to eat, until you return to the ground, from which you were taken; for you are dirt, and to dirt you shall return.”

The man called his wife Eve because she became the mother of all the living.

RESPONSORY

Today the Blessed Virgin Mary was born of David’s seed. Through her the salvation of the world has been revealed to all believers.

- her glorious life has shone upon the world.

Let us keep with devotion the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

- her glorious life has shone upon the world.

A brief pause for silence

SECOND READING

From the Writings of St. Hannibal Mary Di Francia

(Vol. 11, [1877], pp. 119-120)

Mary Most Holy, the Masterpiece of Creation

The creation of Mary Most Holy surpasses that of all creatures; in fact, it could be said that when God created all things and all rational creatures, He had in mind the Most Holy Virgin, as one which was to be the most beautiful work of his divine hands. For this reason, the holy Church applies to Mary Most Holy the words of Wisdom, resulting in a glorious declaration that the Most Holy Virgin pronounces with these words:

From the mouth of the Most High I came forth and covered the earth like mist. The LORD begot me, the beginning of his works, the forerunner of his deeds of long ago; from of all I was formed, at the first, before the earth. When there were no deeps, I was brought forth, when there were no fountains or springs of Holy; before the mountains were settled into place, before the hills, I was brought forth; when the earth and the fields were not yet made, nor the first clods of the world. When he established the heavens, there was I, when he marked out the vault over the face of the deep; when he made firm the skies above, when he fixed fast the springs of the deep; when he set for the sea its limit, so that the waters should not transgress his command; when he fixed

the foundations of earth, then was I beside him as artisan. For whoever finds me finds life and wins favor from the LORD. (cf. Sir 24:3; Prov 8:22-30.35).

From these sublime expressions of Sacred Scripture, which the holy Church places on the lips of the Most Holy Virgin, it is very clear that the Blessed Virgin Mary is the masterpiece of creation; it is openly stated that when the Most High God created heaven and earth, he always had in mind the Most Holy Mary as the one who would possess in herself all the beauties of nature, grace and glory. All the beauties of nature are admirably present in Mary. Beautiful is the sun that shines on earth, but even more beautiful is Mary, who is clothed with the Sun of eternal Light: *a woman clothed with the sun* (Rev 12:1). Beautiful is the moon that illuminates the dark nights with its silver light, but the moon is nothing but the footstool of Mary, Most Holy: *and with the moon under her feet*. Beautiful are the stars of the firmament that shine in the immense vault of heaven; but the stars are nothing but the crown of Mary's virgin head: *and on her head a crown of twelve stars*. Beautiful are the spring flowers, better dressed than Solomon, but the Blessed Virgin Mary is the mystical Rose of Jericho who overcomes all roses, that is, who surpasses all chosen souls, with the sweet fragrance of her virtues. Mary is the mystical white lily of the Holy Trinity, who appeared in the eyes of God purer than the angels themselves. Oh, all that is beautiful in creation is but a pale reflection of the beauty, the majesty, the dignity of the Immaculate Virgin Mary! But it is not enough to say that all the beauties of created nature are present in Mary. All the wonders of grace are also in Her, for the holiness of the Blessed Virgin so surpasses that of all the Saints and all the Angels, that it can be said that Mary is more holy and perfect than all the Angels and Saints put together. St. Bonaventure explains these words of Ecclesiasticus as follows (24:16): *My abode is in the full assembly of the Saints*. Mary Most Holy possesses the fullness of all that the Saints possess in part because she was destined to be the Mother of God.

RESPONSORY

Today let us celebrate with devotion the birth of Mary, the ever-virgin Mother of God,
- whose splendid life has illumined the Church.

With heart and mind let us sing praise and glory to Christ
On this holy feast day of the glorious Virgin Mother of God
- whose splendid life has illumined the Church.

A short reflection by the celebrant

TE DEUM

F E^b B^b F

You are God: we praise you;
You are God: we acclaim you;
You are the eternal Father:
All creation worships you.

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,

Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:
Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you:
Father, of majesty unbounded,
Your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
And the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the king of glory,
The eternal Son of the Father.

When you became man to set us free
You did not spurn the Virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death,
And opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
We believe that you will come and be our judge.

Come then, Lord, and help your people,
Bought with the price of your own blood,
And bring us with your saints
To glory everlasting.

Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance.
- Govern and uphold them now and always.
Day by day we bless you.
- We praise your name forever.
Keep us today, Lord, from all sin.
- Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
Lord, show us your love and mercy;
- For we put our trust in you.
In you, Lord, is our hope:
- And we shall never hope in vain.

PRAYER

Impart to your servants, we pray, O Lord, the gift of heavenly grace, that the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin may bring deeper peace to those for whom the birth of her Son was the dawning of salvation. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.
- Amen.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

FINAL SONG