

Theme: We are called to discern the Emerging Future...



“Keep alive within you and bring under wise control that courage which helps you to undertake great works.” SME

Hymn:

Introduction:

As we celebrate the feast of our beloved Mother let us reflect on our call to **discern the Emerging Future**. St. Mary Euphrasia’s whole life was a life of newness that she never saw things as it were. She saw with creative imagination, which is a rare gift and inspiring hope.

She had the eye and the genius of a pioneer. She saw the future with a lot of hope. The call to ‘**change**’ drove her beyond the familiar, to live the mission of the Good Shepherd. Indeed, ‘Newness was the soul’s atmosphere of St. Mary Euphrasia.

SHE ALWAYS ASKED “WHAT MUST WE DO...”

Today as we enter into prayer, let us welcome into ourselves the newness she dreamed for. What does it call forth in our deepest heart? And what is awakening in our consciousness?

Opening Prayer

God of our hopes and dreams, we search for meaning and long to know that you are present in our lives. By the power of your Spirit make us Dreamers of your and of our world. Give us the faith and vision to make that dream a reality. The only way any of us can experience God is through each other. It is an astonishing realization that we carry the power to heal and to bless, to build up and restore, to co-create and to sustain. Every new breakthrough from a closed place and Every real human experience is a sharing of God’s presence. Let us too ask the grace to become the presence of God as our foundress was.

Amen



Hymn: The Grace of Transformation.... (played)

We are hoping, we are praying, for the grace of transformation,
O Sacred One, O Gracious One,
May our hearts embrace it now.

We are longing, we are yearning, for the grace of transformation,
O Sacred One, O Gracious One,
May our hearts embrace it now.

We are open, we are ready, for the grace of transformation,
O Sacred One, O Gracious One
May our hearts embrace it now.

Psalm

Your Response: We welcome newness into our lives

Thank you for this desire for newness which is itself Your gift
Teach us to let go and allow ourselves to embrace what is new
Show us the numberless ways we keep ourselves bound
Free us and make us new.... **Your Response:**

We are slaves to our Fears and habits
We see slavery in us and around us, free us and make us new
Structures and ways that prevent growth keeps us bound
Show us the way to newness... **Your Response:**

Help us to break free of the habit of indifference
Free us from holding on to the past
And from a vision that ignores Your work among us
May we embrace what is new.... **Your Response:**

May we be channels of newness and hope
May we work together to conquer ignorance and prejudice,
May we become voice for the voiceless
May we freely choose what is noblest and make us ever new.... **Your Response:**



Scripture Reading

Isaiah 43:18-19

Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

Reflection:

In this text, God enlightens His people concerning a new thing that He is going to do for them. In other words, things will change in the future. No, they will no longer be the same because God is including them in His future plans. God's promise of hope that He is sending forth to all of humanity can only be received once we have purposed in our hearts to let go of the past.

God's chosen people had a choice to make, and so do we. We could meditate on our past, or we could gaze our focus upon what God has promised, and desire to do in and through our lives now and in the future. How will we respond to God's promise concerning our future? Will we believe by faith and cooperate with Him?

Mary Euphrasia exhorts us today to make newness as the keynote of our lives. Repeatedly, she reminds her sisters to do great works for the Glory of God. She calls us always to be animated with the holy and edifying zeal. Let us ask our beloved Mother to help us let go of the past in order to receive the promise of God for the New! Let us ask ourselves, "what does the Lord require of us?" Do we hear the call to make changes in life?

Pause:

Magnificat:

In Mary and in our dear foundress we find brave women who courageously faced the uncertain futures of their time. God called them to choose the most challenging future. What enabled them to be brave in the future was their strong faith and zeal. With these sentiments let us praise God the Lord of the past and the future.... (Magnificat - Sung)



Final Prayer

Lord, we thank You for the zeal for souls which inspired St. Mary Euphrasia to undertake such great and noble works of mercy and salvation. May we, the daughters of St. Mary Euphrasia step into the future with great hope and new vision so that we may be able to face challenges with courage and be ready to face challenges with courage and be ready to serve the most needed. May we see Your guiding hand leading us in this new era to where You alone our Shepherd God wants. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: Shepherd us... (Played)

Shepherd us O Tender One,
Guide and lead us on paths unknown.
O shepherd us in all our needs,
Draw us close to your great heart.

**“Go forward now... I am relying on your zeal”
St. Mary Euphrasia**

