

## Advent Marian Meditation Ep. 2 Transcript

*The Immaculate Conception* (with Gabby Bibeau and Bro. Tom Redmond, SM)

### **00:07 - Gabby Bibeau**

Welcome to *Sharing Our Marianist Stories*, a podcast brought to you by the North American Center for Marianist Studies, otherwise known as NACMS. This Advent, we will be releasing one podcast each week that is a meditation on a particular aspect of Mary's life. This is our second episode of our Advent Marian Meditations.

### **00:31 - Gabby Bibeau**

Today, we will be reflecting on Mary's *Immaculate Conception*. We will have a scripture reading, a written reflection on the scripture, and then a few minutes of silence for you to ponder the readings and some questions. We invite you to relax and remember that you are in the presence of God. Let's begin.

### **01:09 - Bro. Tom Redmond, SM**

A reading from the Book of Genesis: "After they had eaten of the tree, the Lord God 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, 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, between your offspring and hers. He will strike at your head while you strike at his heel.' The man called his wife Eve because she became the mother of all the living." The word of the Lord.

### **02:15 - Gabby Bibeau**

When writing about Mary's Immaculate Conception, Father Chaminade said, "We believe that the knowledge of Jesus Christ is indispensable for salvation because as the one mediator between God and all people, he alone can save us and does save us. But we also believe that the knowledge of Mary is greatly important because she is, as St. Bernard says, the reason of our hope. Never before had she shown herself so clearly as the promised woman who crushes the head of the serpent. Religious indifference insults her in vain. She will triumph over it as she has formerly triumphed over all evil."

### **03:10 - Gabby Bibeau**

As Marianists, we are allied with Mary and consecrated to her mission. We believe that she was conceived without the original sin that makes us susceptible to the evil that pervades our world. Sexism is one such evil; so is racism and the disdain heaped upon the poor. Original sin blinds us to these it is all too easy for us not to recognize them or to mistakenly think they are something good.

### **03:43 - Gabby Bibeau**

Our belief in Mary's Immaculate Conception gives us hope in this situation. We believe that she was free of original sin and that she was not taken in by evil. She saw the evil in her world and suffered because of it, but she was not deceived by it. Since there has existed a human being who possessed the freedom to encounter evil and not be deceived by it, there must be a potential for this freedom in human nature. Mary shows us that this freedom lies deep in our humanness. When we come up against a particular evil such as racism, we take heart. We are confident because we know that deep in our humanness, there is an ability to recognize evil for what it is. Bernard was right. Mary is the ground of our hope.

### **04:57 - Gabby Bibeau**

Take a few moments to reflect on the following questions: God blessed Mary and the moment of her conception. How has God blessed you in the past day, week, or month? Reflect on these blessings in silence.

*[Soft music 05:22 - 06:16]*

### **06:16 - Gabby Bibeau**

Mary's close relationship with God began with her conception, and this relationship helped her recognize and respond to the evils of her time. What evils and injustices do you see in our culture today? How is God calling you to work against them, even in small ways?

*[Soft music 06:38 - 07:29]*

### **07:29 - Gabby Bibeau**

Let us pray: Lord our God, you made Mary the home of your eternal word and the sanctuary of the Holy Spirit. Give us a heart that is free from sin and attentive to your will, that faithful to your commandments we may love you above all things and seek to help others in their need. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

### **08:02 - Gabby Bibeau**

Today's scripture reading comes from the New American Bible. Our reflection was written by Bro. Larry Cada, included in a book called *The Promised Woman*. Our prayer was by Fr. Paul Landolfi. Thank you for praying with us.

*The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary / And she was conceived of the Holy Spirit / Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee / Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus / Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*