



PRESENTATION OF MARY

November 21 is the day the Catholic Church celebrates the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Anna and Joachim dedicated Mary to God in the Temple when she was only 2 years old.

How have you dedicated your child(ren) to God?

Marie Rivier was a crippled child that was brought by her mother to the feet of the statue of the Pieta (Our Lady of Mercy) in her village church. Here her mother taught her how to pray to Mary, our Mother. Marie begged Our Lady to cure her and promised to faithfully follow Jesus. On September 7, 1774 Marie was miraculously cured. She remembered her promise at the feet of the Pieta and devoted her life to the care and education of needy children.

On November 21, 1796 Marie and four companions consecrated themselves to God and became the Congregation of the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary. In 1903 they began serving in Duck Lake, Saskatchewan.

Today the Sisters work in many ministries:

- **First Nations Ministry** - The Sisters share their Christian culture and spirituality with the First Nations People. In turn, the Sisters are enriched by the culture of other people.
- **Prison Ministry** –The Sisters visit people in prisons. They help those in the prisons reconcile their lives, and in turn empathize with other sinners.
- **Ministry of Presence to Immigrants and Refugees** – The Sisters advocate for

integration of these people into Canadian society. They help share the joy of the Lord with all peoples.

- **Parish and Pastoral Ministry** - They walk 'with' God's people and shepherd them in the ways of the Gospel.
- **Healing Ministry** - The Sisters work as nurses, counselors and chaplains too. They reach out to the poor in mind, body and spirit.
- **Education of the Faith** - Today the Sisters of the Presentation still strive to fulfill Marie Rivier's dream: "Let us get together and teach school."

Imagine if we were to always treat one another as if they belong to God (for we all do)! God has entrusted parents with the responsibility to teach their children to love God and one another. What a privilege this is! May you continue to help your children grow as disciples of Jesus.

IDEAS FOR YOUR FAMILY TIME

"Parler de Dieu m'est un bonheur!" (Marie Rivier) Does talking about God bring you joy? Read Bible stories to your children. Help them to get to know Jesus as a friend. Use this as an opportunity to teach them how to be more like Jesus - to be a disciple of Jesus. Let us continue to dedicate our lives to God. May we bring the joy of the Lord to all peoples.