



The Mystery of the Incarnation

Reflecting on the calls discerned by the delegates, we were amazed to find that they had arrived at a contemporary form of the Spiritual Exercise St Ignatius called the Mystery of the Incarnation [101-109]. With his heart on fire desiring to share the Spiritual Exercises, St Ignatius of Loyola happened to leave Cova Manresa where the Delegates have been meeting most likely sometime between October 1522 February 1523 exactly 500 years ago. In this Spiritual Exercise we are invited to listen and become one with the Trinity -Our Loving God, the Creator Spirit and Jesus.

Then we ask for the grace of deep-felt knowledge of God become human in Jesus for us that we may love Jesus more deeply and follow him more closely.

This design emerged from the artist Susan Daily ibvm in conversation with spiritual director and giver of the Spiritual Exercises, Rachel McLoughlin ibvm.

The meaning of the image is open to imaginative contemplation of the Mystery of the Incarnation by all.

In our contemplation we found ourselves captured by the loving gaze of the Trinity from the cosmic vantage point represented by the twelve point star.

Notice the elements of earth, water, wind and fire. We contemplate our planet, its beauty and distress.

Jesus on the cross is at the heart of the image.

The cross is embedded with the mountains of Montserrat a constant companion during the delegates' stay at Manresa during the General Congregation 2022 -always inviting us to listen to what the angel and Mary are saying. Mary invites us to enter into a colloquy with them and of course she points us to her Son, Jesus.

The River Cardener flows through this cross and we may notice the initials of Mary Ward in the river bends. This was the river where Ignatius received a pivotal mystical experience of enlightenment, an experience which he often revisited in his prayer in order to write the Constitutions of which Mary Ward desired to Take the Same. Notice also, Mary Ward's initials turn up in the fire element also!

With this fire in our hearts, we hope to incarnate our calls together with all our Mary Ward family. JESUS say AMEN!

Susan and Rachel