**THE AWAKENED MARY**

**By Gifty Abane, SHCJ**

Awakened Mary refers to Mary, who is self-actualized in her relationship with God.

Awakened Mary was wholly present and alert to God’s presence. She felt and saw God in her everyday life and encounters.

Mary was likely unaware of God’s plans for her. And yet, when Angel Gabriel visited Mary, she never panicked. Instead, Mary embraced her vocation and mission in the Incarnational life of the Son of God. Our Lady was contemplative in action.

*But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart.* - Luke 2:19

Mary’s total self-surrender to God’s plan gives witness to how we should respond. Do we encounter God in our communities, ministries, work, and natural environments? Can we see our everyday actions and attitudes transforming and liberating?

As in Mary, God desires and acts in and through us to manifest His presence. In Luke 1: 39-56, Mary was informed of God’s favour on her cousin Elizabeth in Elizabeth’s old age. Mary hastened to the hill country of Judaea to be with Elizabeth.

Today, there are many “Elizabeths” needing a helping hand.

Are we as spontaneous and eager as Mary to offer a listening ear, a room to accommodate the weakness and frailties of others, laughter, and a shoulder to lean on?

During this month of Immaculate Heart of Mary, let us be awakened, fully contemplative-in-action, seeing God in our everyday life and increasing our senses of alertness to God.

May Our Lady intercede for us and be our model of spiritual awareness!