

Mary, First Among Believers

Commissioned for the National Catholic Youth Choir

Mary, first among believers,
trusting in the angel's word,
you consented and, conceiving,
became mother of your God.
Mother now of all believers,
give our fragile faith increase;
may we, trusting in God's promise,
doubts and useless fears release.

Mary, first among the exiles
seeking refuge in the night,
you left home with spouse and Infant,
fleeing Herod's sword in fright.
Mother now of all the exiles,
give them sleep without alarm;
give them clothing, food and shelter;
keep them safe and free from harm.

Mary, first among disciples,
list'ning, learning from your Son,
you held dear his words and actions,
pond'ring each, forgetting none.
Mother now of all disciples,
help us listen day by day;
open to the Spirit's prompting,
help us follow Jesus' way.

Mary, first among the suffering
standing bowed beneath the cross,
you knew all the pain and anguish
of oppression, grief, and loss.
Mother now of all the suffering,
let us show Compassion's face;
let the victims of injustice
know, through us, God's love and grace.

Mary, first among the blessed,
robed in heaven's beauty bright,
you rejoice with saints and angels
in your Son's resplendent light.
Mother now of all the blessed,
make your pilgrim people strong;
keep us faithful till we join you,
praising God in endless song.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, © 2007, Sisters of St. Benedict,
104 Chapel Lane, St. Joseph, MN 56374-0220
Tune: RAQUEL © 1985, Skinner Chavez-Melo
Meter: 87 87 D
Sources: v. 1: Luke 1:26-33, 38
v. 2: Matthew 2:12-18
v. 3: Luke 2:15-19 and 2:41-51
v. 4: John 19:25b-27
v. 5: *Lumen Gentium* ch. VIII, #68
Use: Marian Feasts; choir concert at the 2007 NPM Convention, Indianapolis