



TASTE Reflection Questions
19 February 2026

A Lenten Journey into the Heart of Mary: Becoming Maternal Ambassadors of the Triune God's Divine Love (1)

Gina Witt



Pray, Hope, and Don't Worry. ~ Padre Pio

1. Gina talked about her **goals** for our time together over these 3 weeks. 1) A deeper conversion of heart, 2) To claim God's promise of a heart of flesh (Ezekiel 36:26), 3) To echo Mary's fiat ("Let it be done") in our own lives.

- Which of these do you feel you are in greatest need during this Season of Lent?:
- Was there something that you learned in this first talk that is moving you in that direction?

2. Gina reminded us that **Mary** was: fully human, a mother who fights for her children, fierce against darkness, and focused on our healing & salvation.

- Have you ever thought of Mary as fierce against darkness?
- What characteristics of Mary can you emulate more in your own life?
- How can we better prepare ourselves to model after Mary?

3. Gina provided insights from: **Pope Paul VI, St. Edith Stein, and Caryl Chessman**. (See #4,5,6 on back)

- What did you think about each of these and the impact they have on your life:
 - Pope John Paul VI's message of a woman's influence and power?
 - St. Edith Stein's message of the feminine genius and our receptivity?
 - Caryl Chessman's message about simplicity vs. heroics?

4. Gina said that we are all **Eve** on a journey towards **Mary**. Eve represents: shame, clutching the "apple," and being bound by the serpent. In contrast, Mary represents: hope, Christ already present, and redemption underway.

- What is my "apple"? What binds me?
- Where do I lack hope? Where do I need comfort?
- What can I do to move more towards Mary?

5. Our **spiritual motherhood** does not require perfection, extraordinary acts, or heroic sanctity. However, it does require: receptivity, trust, surrender, and daily fidelity.

- In what ways have you been trying on your own to be a spiritual mother?
- Is it a huge relief to know what spiritual motherhood does **NOT** require?
- That said, which of the ones that it does require, do you find most challenging?

1. ENTERING LENT WITH MARY

- Lent is a season of Spiritual Growth, Repentance, and Deeper Discipleship.
- We ask for: the Holy Spirit to quiet distractions, protection beneath Mary's mantle, and hearts open to conversion.
- Goal of the 3 weeks: A deeper conversion of heart, To claim God's promise of a heart of flesh, To echo Mary's fiat in our lives.

2. SEEING MARY AS BEAUTIFUL/PERFECT, RELATABLE, AND FIERCE

- We often see Mary only thru her titles: Mother of God, Throne of Wisdom, Comforter of the Afflicted, Queen of Peace
- This is reflected in Jesus' words to Blessed Cabrera when He talks about Mary being the noblest of creatures.
- But she is also: Fully human, A mother who fights for her children, Fierce against darkness, Focused on our healing & salvation
- Her greatness flowed from: Union with God, Total receptivity to grace, What God poured into her—not her own striving
- Key truth: We do not “pull ourselves up by our bootstraps.” We receive what God gives and allow it to overflow.

3. THE CALL TO SPIRITUAL MOTHERHOOD

- We are called to: Be maternal ambassadors of divine love, Become Christ-bearers in a suffering world, and Bring Jesus into hearts (as Mary brought Him into the world)
- Spiritual motherhood means: Conceiving Christ in our hearts, Bearing Him into ordinary relationships, Offering healing presence to a world in need.

4. WHAT THE CHURCH SAYS ABOUT WOMEN

- Pope Paul VI addressed women directly at the close of the Second Vatican Council
- The hour has come when women's vocation is being achieved in fullness. Women have influence and power never before seen.
- Women are entrusted with: Protecting life, Guarding peace, Shaping the future, and Educating the human race
- This includes: Wives and mothers, Widows, Consecrated women, Women living alone. All are invited into spiritual motherhood.

5. THE FEMININE GENIUS: RECEPTIVITY

- Edith Stein teaches: The intrinsic value of a woman lies in her receptivity. We are uniquely created to:
- Receive Physically, Emotionally, and Spiritually; Receive The Holy Spirit, Divine love, God's initiative
- Then allow that love to flow outward.

6. MARY'S FIAT: SIMPLICITY, NOT HEROICS

- Caryl Houselander wrote The Reed of God. Drawing from her book:
- Mary was not asked to: Perform heroic feats, Become extraordinary, Live beyond human limits
- She was asked to: Let something be done to her, Receive a gift, Offer her ordinary life
- God desires Christ to be born: Through daily life, Through ordinary love, Through simple human interactions
- We are asked for: Our daily work, Our relationships, Our joys and sorrows, Our thoughts and affections, and Radical trust — Nothing more than what was asked of the Mother of God.

7. OBSTACLES: THE WHISPERED LIES

- Common barriers: “You're not good enough,” “This isn't for you,” Fear and anxiety, Past wounds, Shame, Broken relationships
- Mary teaches: Self-donating love, Self-sacrifice, Vulnerable trust in God the Father
- Her fiat unties the distortions of: Fear of masculinity, Distrust of fatherhood, Defensive postures toward love
- She shows us: God's fatherhood is tender, Divine masculinity is self-giving love

8. FROM EVE TO MARY: A JOURNEY OF HOPE

- We are all Eve on a journey toward Mary. Eve represents: Shame, Clutching the “apple,” Being bound by the serpent. Mary represents: Hope, Christ already present, Redemption underway
- We are invited to: Place our hand on Mary's womb, Believe Christ is coming for us, Release what we clutch.

9. THE MISSION

- Spiritual motherhood means: Smiling love into wounded hearts, Healing through tenderness, Making truth sweet and accessible, Living self-gift in daily life, Bearing Christ into a broken world
- It does NOT require: Perfection, Extraordinary acts, Heroic sanctity. It requires: Receptivity, Trust, Surrender, Daily fidelity

10. OUR DEEPEST IDENTITY

- Your deepest identity is: Beloved daughter of the living God, Adopted through Jesus Christ, Called to bear divine love
- Over these weeks, the prayer is that this truth: Takes root, Becomes clear, Grows in the garden of your soul
- And that, restored and freed, you may know the depth, height, width, and length of God's love — and give it away.