

11

“The eggs and sour cream went
airborne!”

The Fourth Joyful Mystery The Presentation

Good morning, Jesus. I woke up early this morning to pray the fourth Joyful Mystery, the Presentation, and was looking forward to it until I saw the fruit of the mystery...obedience. At first my heart sank because this is such a hard one for me, then I remembered that's why I'm praying it—to ask for help. You and I both know how hard obedience is for me because everything in me wants things the way I want them.

My mom tells us that an obedient heart is a happy heart. It sounds simple but I think she's right. When I disobey to get my way I always think I'll be happy getting what I want, but afterward I feel sad,

The Costly Cookie Chronicles

and I wonder why I can't learn my lesson before I do it. One time Mom asked me to clean up the blocks on the floor before someone tripped on them. I told her I would but was planning to tell John Paul to clean them because they were *his* mess that *he* forgot to clean, and *I* wasn't going to do *his* work. Then Dad came home carrying bags of groceries...he tripped on the blocks...eggs and sour cream went airborne—it was a disaster of a mess.

I had a seriously unhappy heart because I had to clean up the broken eggs (did You know that one dozen eggs can travel across an entire room and splat against a wall in under two seconds?), gloppy sour cream (it shot down the air vent and I had to spend the afternoon cleaning every bit of it), and the rest of the house as well. I also had to apologize to Dad for his accident and explain that it was my fault because I disobeyed Mom.

While apologizing I was thinking to myself that I'd give John Paul an earful because if he had cleaned his mess none of this would have happened, but then I realized I was making excuses; I disobeyed but John Paul was only forgetful. Dad's tripping was my fault and that was hard for me to admit.

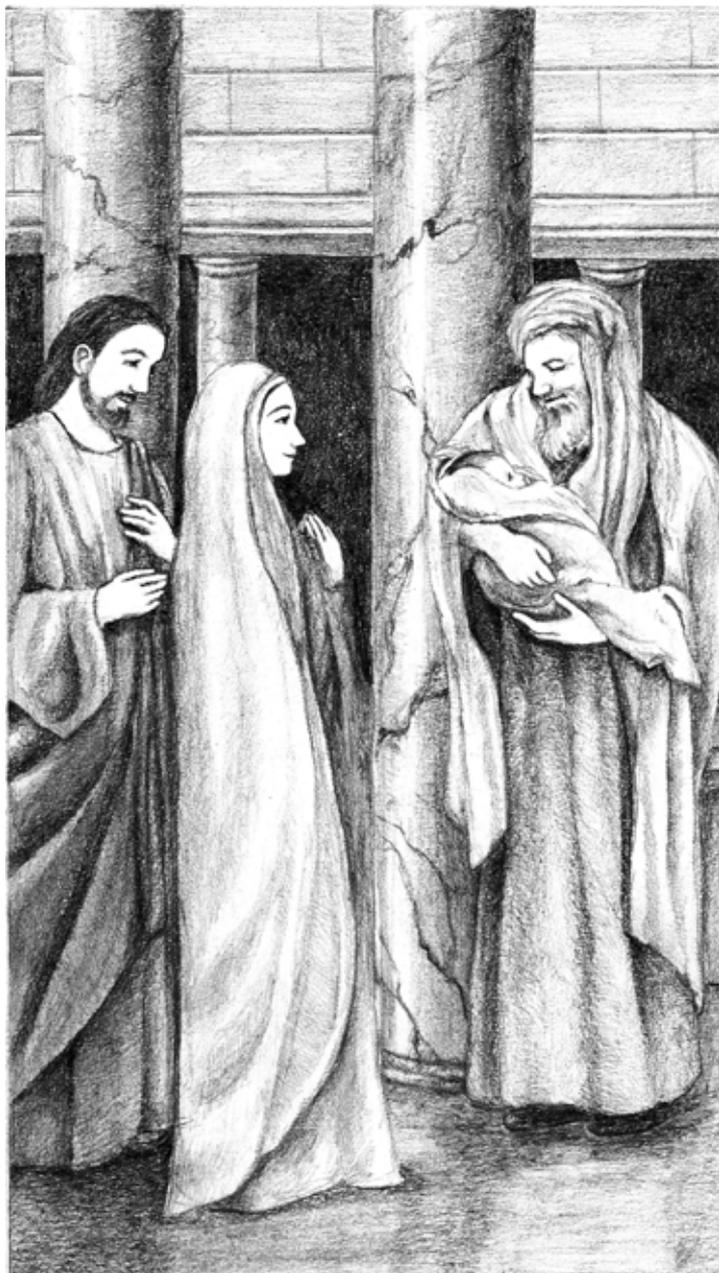
So I guess I'll pray the fourth Joyful Mystery, the Presentation. Father Benedict explained that in

“The eggs and sour cream went airborne!”

obedience to the teachings of their faith Joseph and Mary took You to the temple to present or dedicate You to God (I thought the Presentation meant they presented You to Simeon—I guess not). He told us that Simeon, an old man who loved God, had been waiting a long time to see You before he died because God told him he would.

I imagine Mary holding You close as they walk into the temple. As they turn the corner they see an old man praying and they smile at him. When he looks at them and then at You, he stands and walks straight to You. He gently takes You in his arms and stares into Your face for a long time. Then he looks up and says he can die in peace because he has seen the Holy Child that God had promised. When he looks at Mary and tells her a sword will pierce her heart, I think he means Mary will share Your suffering. Okay, I'll pray this mystery for an obedient heart—one that wants to obey because it pleases You and not just to stay out of trouble. *Clare prays the fourth Joyful Mystery, The Presentation.*

Dear Jesus, while praying this decade a couple thoughts came to me. First, Simeon took You from the arms of Your mother—isn't that what we're supposed to do also? When we pray the rosary aren't we kind of taking You from the arms and heart of Mary



“The eggs and sour cream went airborne!”

like Simeon? Mary is always holding You close to her heart—thinking of You and loving You—and when we pray the rosary we gently take You from her arms and experience the joy of being close to You, too.

Dear Mary, I bet when you went to sleep that night you had a happy heart. Will you please help me to learn that obeying means doing God’s will, and doing God’s will is the only way to be truly happy. And one more thing...thank you for gently placing Baby Jesus in my arms during the rosary so I can hold Him close to my heart. I love You, Jesus and Mary, and I’ll work extra hard to make sure eggs never fly and splat again because of my disobedience.

“And when the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord...” Lk 2:22