

The Feast of the Presentation of the Most Blessed Virgin: November 21st

This feast is based on a tradition that is without any biblical foundation for its historicity. According to this tradition, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, while still a child, was solemnly offered to God in the Temple of Jerusalem by her parents, St. Joachim and St. Anne. This Presentation is the object of the present feast. Some pious and learned authors, notably Suarez, have taught that Our Lady was endowed with the use of reason before the normal time, and that her offering of herself in the Temple comprised a vow of perpetual virginity. Others have maintained that she subsequently lived in the Temple with a group of other maidens being educated there. This idea, however, finds little support among modern biblical scholars.

Pope Gregory XI allowed this feast to be held solemnly for the first time by the Roman Court (then at Avignon) in 1372, but it had been kept in the Oriental Church for some seven centuries before that as the "Solemn Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple." Pope Sixtus IV prescribed it for the whole Church in 1472. Pope St. Pius V suppressed it, but it was reinstated in the Roman Breviary by Sixtus V (1585-90).

With the De La Salle Brothers this day has traditionally been celebrated as the feast day of Junior Novices.