



[Simeon said,] "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation."

LUKE 2:29-30

## We Belong to God

**E**veryone wants to belong to someone or something. In fact, we do not merely want to belong; we need to belong. However, sometimes we forget to whom we really belong. This feast reminds us to whom Jesus belonged. The reading from Hebrews underscores the fact that Jesus was one of us. He also was a descendant of Abraham, thus we are his brothers and sisters. But he really belonged to God.

The ritual of presentation, a ritual that was and continues to be common in religious Israel, was meant to remind everyone to whom we belong. True, only male infants were so presented. This reflects the custom of tracing lineage in the family, tribe, or clan through the male line, with women participating through the agency of men. This cultural gender bias need not prevent us from understanding the profound

meaning of the presentation. Though one of us, Jesus belonged to God.

The Gospel story tells of a man and a woman who recognized that this child would be the one through whom God saves all people. It describes two important religious insights: First, it acknowledges that the child we cherish as one of us really belongs to God. Second, it illustrates how each child has a mission to the world to somehow make it a better place. So even with its gender and cultural bias, this feast is about us as well as Jesus. We all belong to God; and we all have a mission to the world.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR Reflection

- \* Do we really cherish every child as belonging to God?
- \* How have you made your world better?

