

A detailed mosaic of the Virgin Mary, likely from a Byzantine church. She is depicted from the waist up, wearing a red maphorion (veil) with a gold border and a small white star on the forehead. Her face is pale with dark, almond-shaped eyes and a serene expression. She has a large, luminous golden halo. Her arms are outstretched to the sides, palms up, in a gesture of prayer or blessing. She wears a red outer garment (himation) over a blue inner garment (chiton). Her hands are adorned with gold rings. In her left arm, she holds the Christ Child, who is also shown from the waist up, wearing a yellow robe over a white tunic. The Christ Child has a smaller golden halo and is holding a book. The background of the mosaic consists of large, irregular tiles in shades of gold, blue, and brown, creating a textured, aged appearance. The text "Litany of Mary" is superimposed in white, sans-serif font across the center of the image, over the Virgin Mary's chest and the Christ Child.

Litany of Mary

May is the month of Mary. During this month, we have been asked by Pope Francis to take the time to pray. Traditionally, we say the 'Hail Mary' prayer ... not because we are praying to Mary herself ... but because we are asking Mary to take our prayers to her Son, Jesus. We are asking Mary to intercede on our behalf.

Hail Mary prayer:

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.

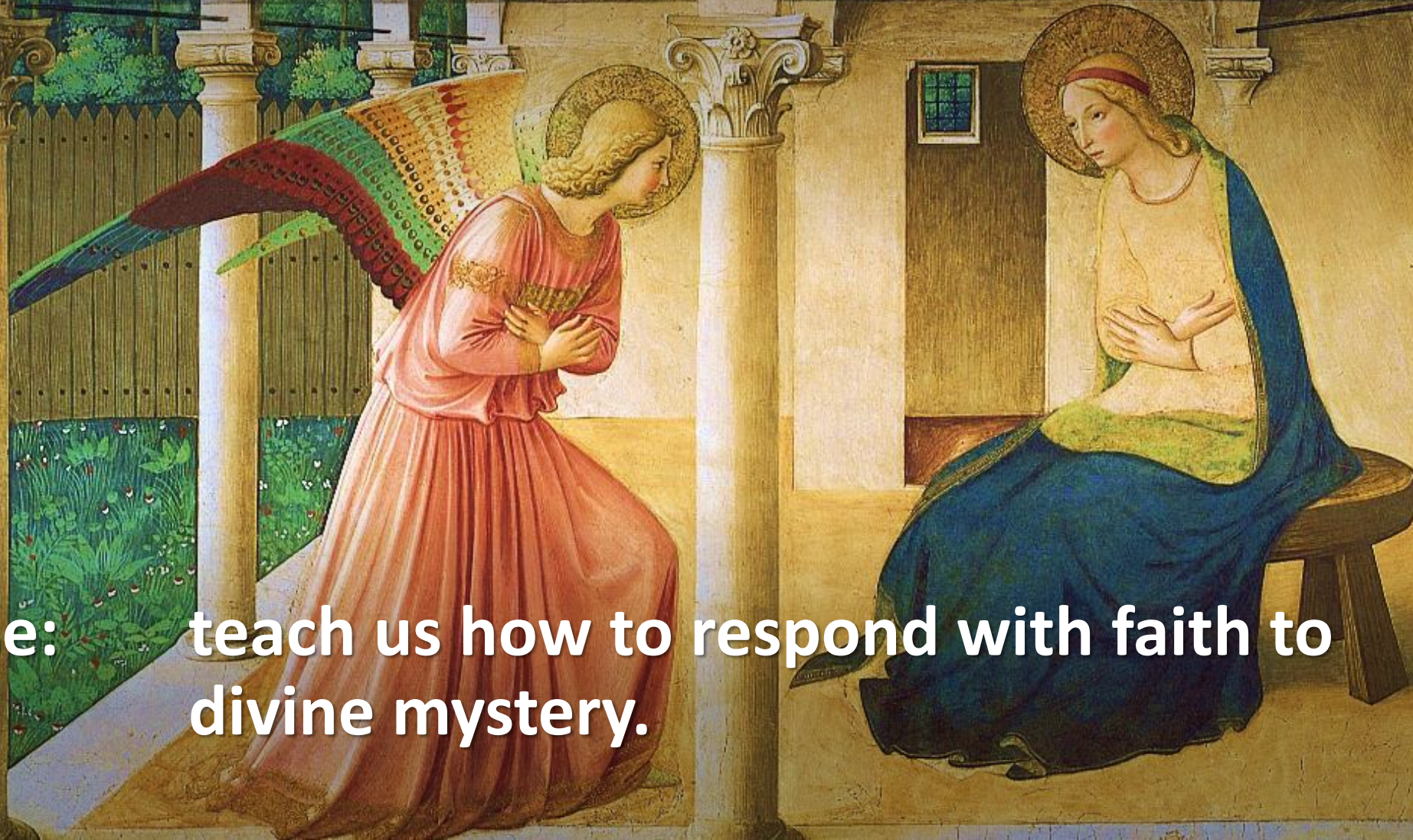
Blessed art thou amongst
women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy
womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our
death.

Amen.



Leader: Mary of the Annunciation,



Response: teach us how to respond with faith to
divine mystery.



Leader: Mary at Elizabeth's door,

Response: teach us to be generous with our capacity to care.

A close-up photograph of a woman with long dark hair, wearing a blue headscarf. She is crying with her mouth wide open in a dark, dimly lit environment. The lighting is focused on her face, highlighting her tears and the intensity of her expression.

Leader: Mary giving birth to Jesus,

Response: teach us to look for your Son in adverse conditions.

A painting depicting the Flight into Egypt. Mary is shown in profile, looking down at the infant Jesus who is wrapped in a blue cloth. Joseph is visible in the background, looking on. The scene is set in a dark, rocky landscape. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image.


Leader: Mary fleeing into the strange
land of Egypt,

Response: teach us to welcome strangers from
foreign lands.

Leader: Mary at the Presentation of
Jesus,

Response: teach us to accept the conditions of loving
fully.





Leader: Mary in the Temple where
young Jesus preached,

Response: teach us to be diligent in finding our
spiritual treasure.

Leader: Mary at home in Nazareth with your family,

Response: teach us to value the gift of our relationships.



Leader: Mary at the wedding feast of
Cana,

Response: teach us how to humbly ask for what is
needed.





Leader: Mary meeting Jesus on the way
to Calvary,

Response: teach us to meet our own pain with
compassion.



Leader: Mary standing beneath the cross,

Response: teach us to be present to the suffering ones
of our world.

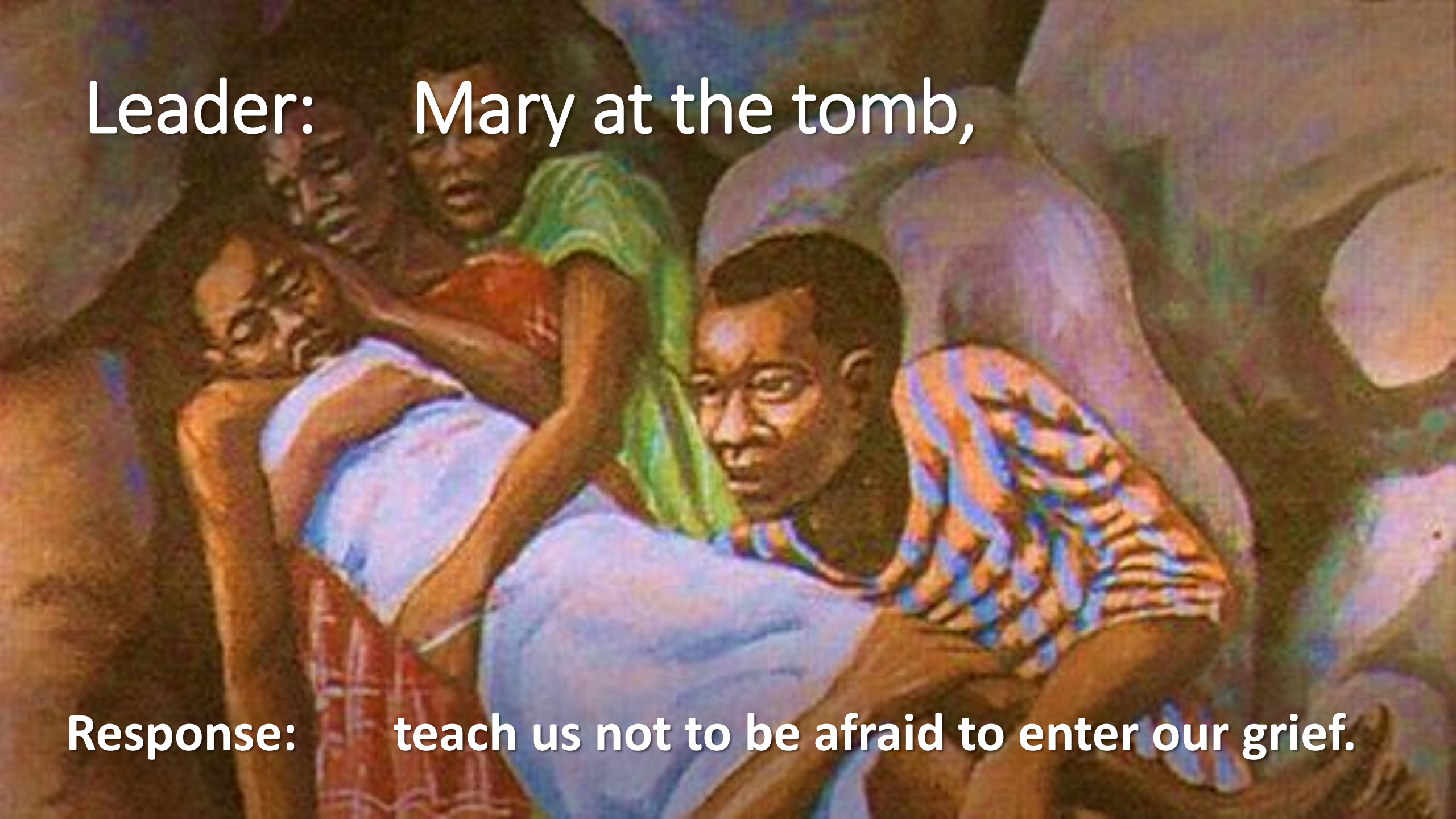
Leader: Mary receiving your crucified
Son in your arms,

Response: teach us that we, too, can embrace our
losses with courage.



Leader: Mary at the tomb,

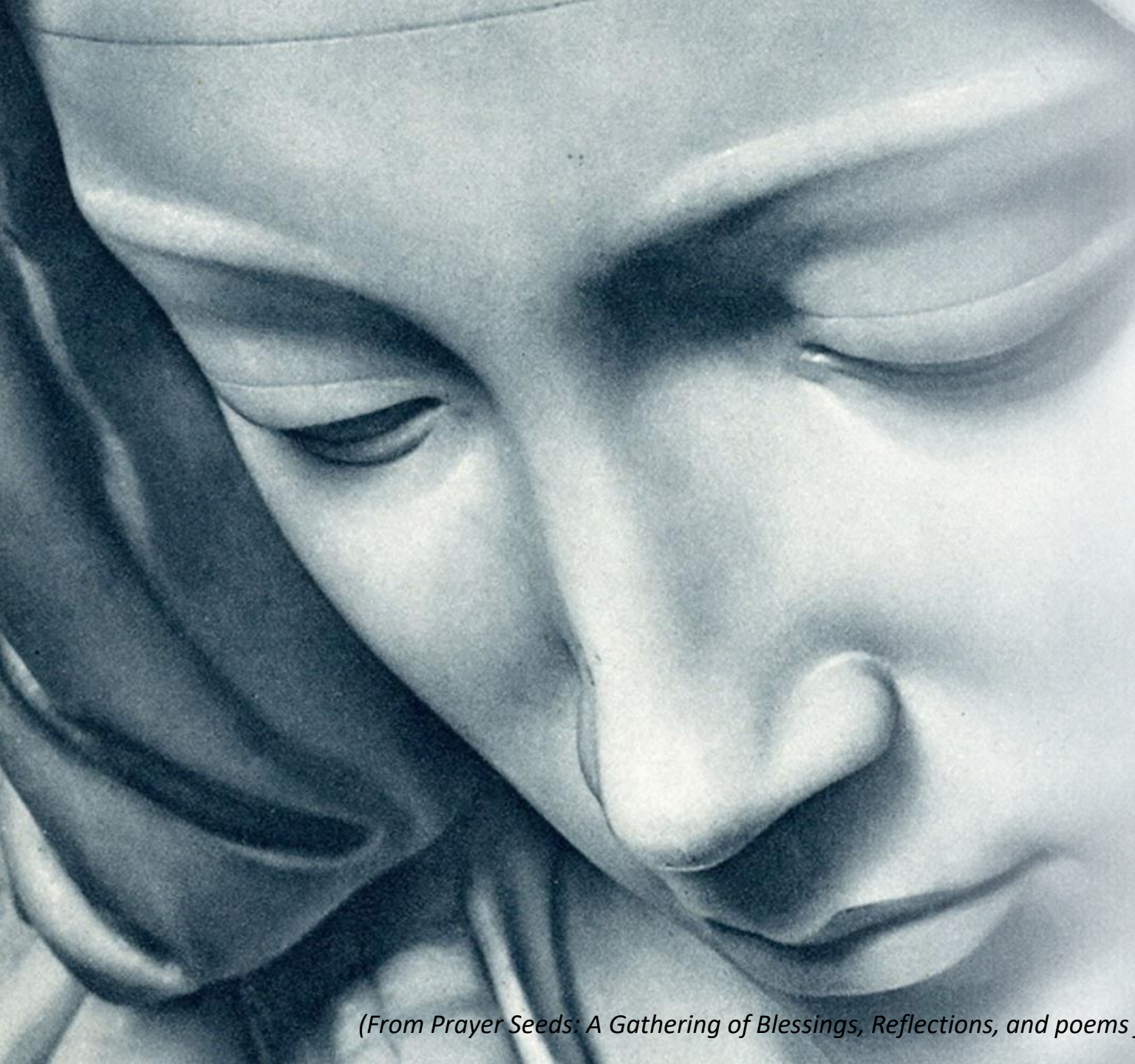
Response: teach us not to be afraid to enter our grief.



Leader: Mary in the upper room with the
disciples,

Response: teach us the strength of community and the
power of prayer.





Let us pray together ...

Mary, Mother of Jesus, we
look to your life of faith and
draw inspiration from you.
The witness of your life
readies us to be people of
immeasurable love and to
give of ourselves
wholeheartedly to a life
of ongoing transformation.
Mary, our Mother,
pray for us.

(From Prayer Seeds: A Gathering of Blessings, Reflections, and poems for Spiritual Growth – Joyce Rupp)