

## NOVEMBER 21 BISHOP TONY DANIELS

As I mentioned at the beginning of our celebration today, we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of Mary.

In the Diocese of Grand Falls, where I am bishop, from our very earliest days, we had two congregations of Women Religious: the Mercy Sisters and the Presentation Sisters. I hope the Mercy Sisters will excuse me because I'm focusing on the Presentation Sisters.

The Presentation Sisters, of course, took their name from the two events of Presentation: the Presentation of Jesus and the Presentation of Mary. They were fulfilling the Jewish rituals. But quickly, their charism became something a little different. Their charism became that they took it upon themselves to present Jesus and Mary to their people.

They were largely teachers, at least at the beginning. And it was in their classrooms that they presented the children with Jesus—who He was and what He did, how He loved them—and Mary, as their mother, as their guardian, as the one who knows their needs and brings them to God.

As their time in our diocese continued, they entered into different ministries, but in all of those ministries, their concern was to bring and present Jesus and Mary to anyone and everyone they met.

Sadly, because of the age of so many of the sisters, they're no longer involved very much in parish ministry or schools. In many ways, they have left the responsibility of presenting Mary and Jesus to people to us. Now, it falls to parents and grandparents to

present Jesus and Mary to their children and grandchildren. Now it falls to friends to present Jesus and Mary to their friends. It now falls to all those who have an intimate relationship with Christ and Mary to be willing to present Jesus and Mary to others.

So today, as we celebrate the Presentation of Mary, we take on the gift that the sisters—the Presentation Sisters—gave to us, namely, the gift of presenting Jesus and Mary to those we meet.