September 8th: Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Gospel text (*Mt* 1:1-16, 18-23): The Book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham became the father of Isaac... Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ... For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."

Birth of Mary

Fr. Agustí ALTISENT i Altisent Monk of Santa Maria de Poblet
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Today, Jesus' genealogy, the Savior that had to come and be born of Mary, shows us how the work of God is interwoven into human history, and how God acts in the secret and silence of every single day. At the same time, we can see his reliability to accomplish his promises.

The Holy Spirit, that mysteriously had to incarnate the Son in Mary, entered, therefore, into our history a long time before, and traced a path leading to the Virgin Mary of Nazareth and, through her, to her Son Jesus. In this work, everything brings us to contemplate, admire and worship, through prayer, the greatness, the generosity and the simplicity of the divine action, that will extol and rescue our human lineage through our Lord's personal involvement.

—This girl, virgin and Jesus' mother, had to be also our mother. Who could ever imagine God to be so great and so simple as to so intimately bind himself to us?