

THE VIRGIN MARY GREETES ST. ELIZABETH

CHRISTIAN FRIENDSHIP

“BUT I HAVE CALLED YOU FRIENDS . . .”

Freindships are special relationship. We confide in our friends . . . We trust them with our innermost secrets and sometimes trust them with our very lives. We share our joys and our sorrows with them. We know we can can always turn to them in time of need, and we are always available to help out if the situation is reversed. Anyone with a TRUE friend is indeed, a fortunate person.

It is no wonder, then, that Christ speaks about friends in a very beautiful manner in His Farewell Discourse to HIS Apostles on the night of His Passion. “But I have called you friends, for all things I heard from My Father I have made know to you.” (John 15:15). What an honor it was for them to be referred to by Jesus as His “friends!” Yes, Christ would always be their Master, but because of their great love for him and their willingness to obey Him as unbreakable bond formed between them.

It is important for us to note that we, too, can be numbered among God’s friends. He tells us exactly what we must do if we want to foster this type of relationship with Him: “You are my friends if you do whatever I command you.” (John 15:14) Being a friend of God requires commitment and dedication. Being His friend calls for sacrifice on our part. Being His friend may even cause us to lose the friendship of others, who are not willing or not able to commend their life totally to the Lord.

Christ has asked us for our loyalty. Like the Apostles and all the saints, we, too can share in the eternal glory of the kingdom of heaven.