

Sister's Spin

September 22, 2023

September has several feast days dedicated to Mary--her birthday, name day , and the day that recalls the many sorrows of her life. Thinking about this feast of last week, the image of Mary standing beneath the cross captured my attention. And then, my mind wandered over to the Centurion who was in charge of this crucifixion. He must have been standing there, watching the woman who stood so strongly at the foot of the cross. What were his thoughts as he watched her? Did he keep his distance to give her some privacy? The Gospels report that he claimed Jesus to be the Son of God after the piercing of Jesus' side. Did Mary speak to him? I wonder what he did once he left the hill of Calvary with his troops. What became of him?

There are only three centurions mentioned in the New Testament that I know of—this one on Calvary, the one who asked Jesus to cure his servant—yet did not need Jesus to come to his house, and Cornelius, who is the only one named in the Acts of the Apostles. Each of them had an encounter with Jesus —were they the same person or three different Roman soldiers? And how did their encounter with Jesus change their lives? We, too, encounter Jesus in many ways each day—and others encounter Jesus through us. Are we changed through these encounters? Are others changed through their encounter with us? Perhaps some moments of quiet with Mary can assist us. She pondered all of these things in her heart and perhaps she can share one of the other thoughts with us on the best ways to encounter and share her Son with others . October — one of the months dedicated to Mary—may be a good time to find a few moments to sit and chat with her. Enjoy the coming colorful days of autumn!

-Sister Marcianne

