

The Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin

commemorates the visit of Mary to Elizabeth recorded in the first chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke.

It was at the instigation of St. Bonaventure that the General Chapter of the Franciscan order first introduced the observance of the Commemoration of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin, and that not until 1263 A. ✕ D. As part of the solution to the Great Schism universal acceptance of the Feast was proposed by Boniface IX in 1389 A. ✕ D., but was never achieved.

The Second Vatican Council changed the date of the Feast from July 2nd, the historic date, to May 31st. Among us the Feast is observed on July 2nd.

Cover Art – *The Visitation*, an illumination in *Le Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry*, c. 1416 A. ✕ D.

The Latin text below the illumination is that of Vulgate Psalm 69:2, “*Deus in adiutorium meum intende Domine ad adiuvandum me festina*”, enumerated as Psalm 70:1 in modern versions: “*Make haste, O God, to deliver me! Make haste to help me, O LORD!*” The *Gloria Patri* follows.

Le Très Riches Heures is a French Gothic book of prayers. The illuminated manuscript is considered among the best preserved of its genre and time. The book was made for John, Duke of Berry, by the Limbourg brothers. Several later artists added illuminations to the manuscript until 1489, when it was completed for the Duke of Savoy. In the collection of the Musée Condé, Chantilly, France.

The Visitation of



the Blessed Virgin Mary