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PARABLE OF THE PENCIL

The Pencil Maker took the pencil aside, just before putting him into the box. "There are 5 things you need to know," he told the pencil, "Before I send you out into the world. Always remember them and never forget, and you will become the best pencil you can be." **One:** You will be able to do many great things, but only if you allow yourself to be held in someone's hand." **Two:** You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time, but you'll need it to become a better pencil." "Three: You will be able to correct any mistakes you might make." **Four:** The most important part of you will always be what's inside." "And **Five:** On every surface you are used on, you must leave your mark. No matter what the condition, you must continue to write." The pencil understood and promised to remember, and went into the box with purpose in its heart. Now replacing the place of the pencil with you. Always remember them and never forget, and you will become the best person you can be. **One:** You will be able to do many great things, but only if you allow yourself to be held in God's hand. And allow other human beings to access you for the many gifts you possess. **Two:** You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time, by going through various problems in life, but you'll need it to become a stronger person. **Three:** You will be able to correct any mistakes you might make. **Four:** The most important part of you will always be what's on the inside. And **Five:** On every surface you walk through, you must leave your mark. No matter what the situation, you must continue to do your duties. Dear Young Friend, Allow this parable on the pencil to encourage you to know that you are a special person. Never allow yourself to get discouraged and think that your life is insignificant and cannot make a change.

START WITH YOURSELF

When I was young and free and my imagination had no limits, I dreamed of changing the world. As I grew older and wiser, I discovered the world would not change, so I shortened my sights somewhat and decided to change only my country. But, it too, seemed immovable. As I grew into my twilight years, in one last desperate attempt, I settled for changing only my family, those closest to me, but alas, they would have none of it. And now as I lie on my deathbed, I suddenly realize: If I had only changed myself first, then by example I would have changed my family. From their inspiration and encouragement, I would then have been able to better my country and, who knows, I may have even changed the world. (These words are found on the tomb of an Anglican Bishop of Westminster Abbey in London, England.)

WHAT DO CATHOLICS BELIEVE ABOUT THE VIRGINITY OF MARY?

Based on Scripture (Matthew 1:18, Luke 1:27 and 1:35) and the ancient creeds, Catholics hold that Jesus, the Son of God, was conceived through the Holy Spirit and delivered of Mary, as foretold by the angel Gabriel in the Annunciation, and that Mary remained a virgin throughout her life. Marian scholars and researchers write that Mary's virginal conception is a visible sign of God's participation in the coming of Jesus and is not intended as an anti-sexual message. Ordinary conception in marriage is not less holy, they say. There are several passages in the Bible that refer to the brothers and sisters of Jesus, and different explanations have developed to account for those passages. According to the Rev. Bertrand Buby, S.M., a Marian scholar and author, some Christian traditions believe them to be blood brothers of Jesus', others interpret them as cousins to Jesus and another group views them as children from a prior marriage of Joseph's. "The Catholic tradition is that Mary had no child other than Jesus," Buby says, and that brothers and sisters would refer to the extended family of Jesus, such as cousins. A more recent interpretation is that brothers and sisters refers to the larger company of believers and disciples.

YEAR

EVENT

23/20 BC	• Birth of Mary to Ann and Joachim
20/17 BC	• Presentation of Mary in the Temple
11/8 BC	• Betrothal to Joseph (Mt 1:16; Lk 1:27)
7 BC	• Annunciation of Christ's Birth to Mary (Lk 1:26-38)
	• Mary's Visitation to Elizabeth (Lk 1:39-56)
	• Mary found with Child (Mt 1:18-25)
7/6 BC	• Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem (Lk 2:1-19)
	• Circumcision of Jesus at 8 days of age (Lk 2:21)
	• Purification of Mary after 40 days (Lk 2:22-24)
	• Prophecy of Simeon concerning Jesus and Mary (Lk 2:25-35)
	• Prophetess Anna speaks of Jesus (Lk 2:36-38)
	• Return to Nazareth (Lk 2:39)
6/4 BC	• Adoration of the Magi (Mt 2:1-11)
	• Flight into Egypt to save Jesus from Herod (Mt 2:13-14)
4-? BC	• Return to Nazareth after Herod's death (Mt 2:19-23)
6 AD	• Finding of Jesus in the Temple at Jerusalem (Lk 2:41-50)
6-? AD	• Life of Mary and Joseph with Jesus at Nazareth (Lk 2:51)
27/28-30 AD	• Mary at the Marriage Feast of Cana (Jn 2:1-11)
	• Mary with Jesus during His Public Life (Mt 12:46-50; Mk 3:31-35; Lk 8:19-21; Jn 2:12-13)
	• Jesus' indirect praise of Mary for her faith (Lk 11:27-28)
30 AD	• Mary at the Cross (Jn 19:25-27)
	• Mary with the Apostles in the Cenacle after Jesus' Ascension (Acts 1:14)
?	• Mary is assumed to heaven to rejoin her Son.

BLESSED DAUDI OKELO AND JILDO IRWA OCTOBER 20

The Archdiocese of Gulu has been honored to have two of its martyrs: Daudi Okelo and Jildo Irwa recognized and honored in the Church as Blesseds. Daudi Okelo and Jildo Irwa are the first fruits of the spreading of the Gospel by the Comboni Missionaries in Northern Uganda. These two young catechists were remarkable because, having just received Baptism and Confirmation; they realized that to be a Christian means to share one's faith, even at the cost of life itself, should this become necessary. Daudi was 16 - 18 years old, born in a village of Ogom, Payira. He was baptized and confirmed in 1916 at Kitgum Mission. Jildo was even younger: 12 to 14 years old. He was born in a village of Bar-Kitoba, and was baptized and confirmed with Daudi. They both worked with generosity and enthusiasm for almost a year, teaching the catechumens of Paimol. People who opposed the new religion took advantage of socio-political unrest to stop the preaching of the Gospel. The two catechists were hounded, threatened, ordered to give up their activities, and finally speared to death. It was the weekend of 18th - 20th October 1918. Daudi and Jildo were beatified by His Holiness Pope John Paul II on October 20th, 2002.

Most of us grew up as 'blamers.'
If I can only cross-over the line that separates the 'blamers'
from those who accept the full responsibility
for their own behaviour,
it will probably be the most mature thing I
have ever done.

Listen or your tongue will keep you deaf. (American Proverb)

He who lies once is never believed again. (Polish Proverb)