

O EVE!

SCOTT ERICKSON

“Advent is about Christ coming in the midst of human living.”

I love this issue’s cover art of “Eve Consoling Mary” by sister Grace Remington. On this page is a painting interpretation I did of her image a few Christmas Eves ago. So many wonderful theological ideas are being displayed in this image. But what I love most about it is the look that Mary and Eve have for each other.

It’s like they were at some cosmic party where they didn’t know each other at first, but when they get introduced, they find out they are deeply connected on so many levels.

They also have one billion mutual friends on Facebook. Eve is experiencing hope and grace from brokenness that she never thought she’d see an end to. And yet her face could also be of unknowing mom bestowing wisdom and compassion on a new mom... as if saying,

“Parenting is one of the greatest and hardest adventures of a lifetime. You’ll love them, and want to have them forever... but you may see one of them die before their time, and that’s the absolute worst...”

Mary takes the hand of Eve and places it on her belly to let her feel the manifestation of restored hope growing in her womb.

And yet the drawing is also of the move of solidarity—accepting the entrance into the great cloud of witnesses as brokenhearted mothers who love their children more than all else.

I can never fully understand the deep connections and conversations in the worldwide society of mothers. But this art invites me into that secret conversation. That Emmanuel is *God with us*—but *he comes to us through one of us*, a blessed and humble teenage woman, and honors and dignifies the sacrificial and (w)holy involved life of being a mom.

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O Eve!

poem by Sr. Columba Guare

*My mother, my daughter, life-giving Eve,
Do not be ashamed, do not grieve.
The former things have passed away,
Our God has brought us to a New Day.
See, I am with Child,
Through whom all will be reconciled.
O Eve! My sister, my friend,
We will rejoice together
Forever
Life without end.*

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