

Mary, Beloved of the Trinity

Our Mother of Mercy

Each May we honor our natural mothers on Mother's Day. So, too, the Church, a spiritual family, honors its spiritual Mother, not only on Mother's Day but the entire month of May and all throughout the year. Why? Because in every age Mary has shown herself as Mother to us more dear and more mindful and powerful than any natural mother. She is the Mother of God given to the Church and to us by the Most Holy Trinity as the most perfect model of Jesus and our surest way to union with Them for our sanctification and salvation. Mary is our maternal intercessor with Jesus, the only Savior of the world. He honors her in heaven as He did on earth. He Himself honors her so much that He refuses her nothing on our behalf if it is in accord with God's will. As Jesus is the Mercy of God enfleshed in the Sacred Humanity, so Mary, mother of that Sacred Humanity, is, therefore, truly the Mother of Mercy. The Trinity chose her from all eternity to enter into a unique and singular intimacy with Them as the most favored daughter of the Father, the most holy Virgin-Mother of the Son and the pure and Immaculate Spouse of the Holy Spirit, giving her a most privileged position of favor with Them on our behalf that transcends that of any other created person. Mary truly is mankind's solitary boast! She is the mirrored image of Jesus, the first tabernacle in flesh to repose the Real Presence, the first temple not made of stone to be the dwelling place for the living God! Having been taught the secrets of the inner life of the Trinity by Jesus, her Divine Son, and the Holy Spirit, her Divine Spouse, Mary is, beyond doubt, the most trustworthy and experienced theologian, teacher and disciple of Jesus on earth when it comes to the mystery and ways of God.

Our Lady spoke to this reality in these words given to Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil, visionary of the Our Lady of America® apparitions.

“I am the Mother of the sacred humanity, and it is my special work as co-redemptrix of the human race to help souls reach the sanctity of the Father in eternal union by showing them how to put on Christ, to imbibe His Spirit, and thus become one with Him.” ...

“... God looks at the heart, and if it resembles the Heart of His Divine Son, it is with the greatest pleasure He regards it. But to make your hearts grow more and more like to the Heart of the Son, you must go to the Mother, whose heart is most like His. From this Pure and Immaculate Heart you will learn all that will make you more pleasing to the Divine Heart of the Son of God. The Holy Trinity looks down with infinite delight upon such souls and makes them Its heaven upon earth.”

(Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil, Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA®, Fostoria, Ohio, Pgs. 24, 16).

The holy doctors of the Church understood this unique position of Mary in the work of redemption for the salvation of souls. With St. Alphonsus Liguori they believed that **“A devout servant of Mary shall never perish.”** St. Melchilde was such a devout servant of

Mary. While beseeching Our Lady for assistance in death Our Lady appeared to St. Melchilde and asked that she pray three special Hail Marys to her every day. Our Lady gave this explanation:

“The first will be in honor of God the Father, Whose omnipotence raised my soul so high above every other creature that after God I have the greatest power in heaven and on earth. In the hour of your death I will use that power of God the Father to keep any hostile power far from you.

The second Hail Mary will be said in honor of the Son of God Who communicated His inscrutable wisdom to me. In the hour of your death I will fill your soul with the light of that wisdom so that all the darkness of ignorance and error will be dispelled.

The third Hail Mary will be in honor of God the Holy Ghost Who filled my soul with the sweetness of His love and tenderness and mercy. In your last hour I will then change the bitterness of death into divine sweetness and delight.”
(Leaflet distributed by Our Lady of the Rosary Library, Prospect, KY 40059.)

Who can doubt the eternal love of the Three Persons of the Trinity for Mary and Mary’s position of unprecedented favor with them for us? Who is not familiar with the more recent apparitions of Our Lady to the three shepherd children of Fatima in Portugal in 1917? On June 13, 1929, Lucia, the eldest, had what has become known as the “Last Great Vision” of Fatima, which took place in the Dorothean Convent chapel at Tuy, Spain. This was a vision of the Most Holy Trinity, previously known only to Pope Pius XII who consecrated the whole human race to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on October 31, 1942. This vision, synthesizing the whole message of Fatima, was made public after Pope Paul VI’s 1967 pilgrimage to Fatima that marked the golden jubilee of the Fatima apparitions. Lucia describes the vision thus:

Suddenly the whole Chapel was illumined by a supernatural light, and a cross of light appeared above the altar, reaching to the ceiling. In a bright light at the upper part of the cross could be seen the face of a man and his body to the waist (*Father*) [and] on his breast there was a dove also of light (*Holy Spirit*) and, nailed to the cross, was the body of another man (*Son*). Somewhat above the waist, I could see a chalice and a large host suspended in the air, on to which drops of blood were falling from the face of Jesus Crucified and from the wound in His side. These drops ran down on to the host and fell into the chalice. Our Lady was beneath the right arm of the cross (...it was Our Lady of Fatima with her Immaculate Heart...in her left hand...with a crown of thorns and flames...). Under the left arm of the cross, large letters, as of crystal clear water which ran down over the altar, formed these words: **Graces and Mercy.**

I understood that it was the Mystery of the Most Holy Trinity which was shown to me,... Our Lady then said to me: “The moment has come when God asks the Holy Father, in union with all the bishops of the world, to make the consecration of Russia to my Heart, promising to save it by this means.”

On March 25, 1984, in St. Peters Square in Rome, in union with the world's bishops, St. John Paul II consecrated the world and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in accord with Our Lady's request. Why not just Russia as requested? Because, as he noted, by this time the errors of atheism had spread, not only throughout Russia but throughout the world. Our Lady accepted the consecration. Jesus told Sr. Lucia He wanted the world to know Russia's conversion would be accomplished through the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

(The Blue Army USA, Washington, NJ depiction and explanation of the vision, printed with ecclesiastical permission of Rev. Msgr. John B. Szymanski, Vicar General, Diocese of Metuchen, April 2, 1996.)

In our own day in the apparitions of Our Lady of America®, Mary confirms anew her privileged position with the Three Persons of the Most Holy Trinity. She reminds us that, after Jesus and the Eucharist, she is the Trinity's most precious gift for our salvation, the Mediatrix of Grace as depicted in Lucia's vision: **"My heart, my Immaculate Heart, is the channel through which the graces of the Sacred Heart are given to men."** (Diary, Pg. 18).

November 23, 1957 marks another very important vision in which Our Lady revealed herself to Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil as she really and truly was, the Immaculate Tabernacle of the Indwelling God. Like her, we, too, are called to be tabernacles of the Indwelling God Who longs to make His heaven within us.

The previous day Our Lady had appeared with her hands outstretched. At this second visit she slowly raised them, then crossed them on her breast rather close to her waist. While doing so, she bent her head slightly forward, and it seemed that her eyes were closed, not just lowered. On her breast, as though through a veil, the Triange and the Eye, which is often depicted as the symbol of the Divine Indwelling, could be visibly seen. I said that Our Lady's feet were bare, that is, devoid of any kind of footwear, but on each foot was a large white rose. The roses, both on the feet and on the crown, were of such dazzling whiteness that the outlines of the petals could barely be seen, sometimes not at all. It seemed that a strong beam of light streamed from the Divine Presence within Our Lady onto the globe at her feet. Then halfway around the figure of Our Lady above her head appeared a scroll on which were written in letters of gold the words: "All the glory of the King's daughter is within." Though it did not appear that her lips moved, yet I heard these words quite plainly: "I am Our Lady of the Divine Indwelling, handmaid of Him Who dwells within." (Diary, Pg. 22).

Who of us is so foolish as to ignore the plan of God and the desire of Jesus that we come to Them through the pure and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Co-Redemptrix and Mediatrix of Grace? In the **Mystical City of God**, Venerable Mary of Agreda recounts her vision of Mary being crowned in heaven while a voice from the throne spoke thus:

... Thou hast humiliated Thyself in thy own estimation to the lowest place; receive now the supreme dignity deserved by Thee and, as a participation in our Divinity, the dominion over all the creatures of our Omnipotence. ...and by the power We now give thee thou shalt subject hell with all its demons and inhabitants. ... In thy hands and at thy pleasure We place the influences and forces of the heavens,

the moisture of the clouds, the growths of the earth; and all of them do Thou distribute according to thy will, and our own shall be at thy disposal for the execution of thy wishes. Thou shalt be the Empress and Mistress of the militant Church, its Protectress, its Advocate, its Mother and Teacher. Thou shalt be the special Patroness of the Catholic countries; and whenever they, or the faithful, or any of the children of Adam call upon Thee from their heart, serve or oblige Thee, Thou shalt relieve and help them in their labors and necessities. Thou shalt be the Friend, the Defender and the Chieftainess of all the just and of our friends; all of them Thou shalt comfort, console and fill with blessings according to their devotion to Thee. In view of all this we make Thee the Depository of our riches, the Treasurer of our goods; we place into thy hands the helps and blessings of our grace for distribution; nothing do We wish to be given to the world, which does not pass through thy hands; and nothing do We deny, which Thou wishest to concede to men. Grace shall be diffused in thy lips for obtaining all that Thou wishest and ordainest in heaven and on earth, and everywhere shall angels and men obey Thee; because whatever is ours shall be thine, just as Thou hast always been ours; and Thou shalt reign with Us forever.

Venerable Mary of Agreda, THE MYSTICAL CITY OF GOD, Vol. IV, Chapter XXII, #779, pg. 657.)

So let us entrust the Militant Church, all churches, peoples and nations, all who beseech from their hearts this most blessed Lady so beloved of the Trinity and so desperately needed by us poor sinners. Let us obey God's desire and heed Mary's wisdom to call upon her aid with confidence for our every need. On May 5, 1957, the devoted servant of Mary, Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil, received a vision which further confirms what the Church has always believed about Mary, that she is our Mother of Mercy, Co-Redemptrix and Mediatrix of Grace. Sister Mildred writes:

Our Lady showed herself to me today as the Mother of Mercy. With her arms extended, her blue mantle affording a safe refuge for the sinner, she said, "I am the Mother of Mercy. Under my mantle I will hide my children. The justice of God will not reach them if they seek refuge [be]neath the protection of my mercy. My Son gives to me all those souls who come to me with confidence, calling upon my aid. Their salvation is in my hands. I will obtain for them the necessary graces to save their souls.

Come to me, poor, suffering and frightened ones. I am your Mother. Never will I forsake you. Only come to me with a wholehearted and loving trust. Place your souls into my keeping. I am that faithful Mother who never forsakes her children. Honor me by your confidence and love. This I desire and ask of you, my poor children. Do not deny the wishes of your Mother.

Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope!

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