

The Most Beautiful Woman and Mother in the World



The Immaculate Tabernacle of the Indwelling God

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When God willed to become Man, He had to decide on the time of His coming, the country in which he would be born, the city in which He would be raised, the people, the race, the political and economic systems that would surround Him, the language He would speak, and the psychological attitudes with which He would come in contact as the Lord of History and the Savior of the World. All these details would depend entirely on one factor: the woman who would be His Mother. To choose a mother is to choose a social position, a language, a city, an environment, a crisis, and a destiny.

His Mother was not like ours, whom we accepted as something historically fixed which we could not change; He was born of a Mother whom He chose before He was born. It is the only instance in history where both the Son willed the Mother and the Mother willed the Son. And this is what the Creed means when it says “born of the Virgin Mary”. She was called by God as Aaron was, and Our Lord was born not just of her flesh but also by her consent. ...

We should not be surprised that she is spoken of as a thought by God before the world was made. When Whistler painted the picture of his mother, did he not have the image of her in his mind before he ever gathered his colors on his palette? If you could have preexisted your mother (not *artistically*, but *really*), would you not have made her the most perfect woman that ever lived—one so beautiful she would have been the sweet envy of all women, and one so gentle and so merciful that all other mothers would have sought to imitate her virtues? Why, then, should we think that God would do otherwise?

(Fulton J. Sheen, *THE WORLD’S FIRST LOVE, Mary, Mother of God*, Ignatius Press, Pgs. 14-15.)

In May we honor our earthly mothers and we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Mother of Jesus, of God, of the Church, and as our heavenly Mother. What a contrast is heaven’s beauty to that of earth, the fleeting beauty that is so often only skin deep or artificial with cosmetics and surgery. The latter beauty always wrinkles with sufficient time. Real beauty comes from within, deep within the soul; it shines in the eyes and permeates the whole person, not merely the body, with the radiance and luminosity of something supernatural and divine, that sanctifying grace of the Indwelling Presence of God. This inner beauty grows more splendid with age and lasts through eternity. Mary, the holy and Immaculate Mother of God, is a creature of unprecedented inner and outer beauty, because

of her unparalleled grace. She is utter innocence, purity, simplicity and humility surrendered totally to the will and pleasure of the Infinite God Who adorns her with every possible gift from the inexhaustible bounty of His own Self. When Mary appeared to Sister Mildred Neuzil on the feast of the North American martyrs, September 26, 1956, she was enveloped in a gloriously transcendent light and held a pure white lily in her right hand.

She wore a white veil reaching almost to the waist and a mantle and robe of pure white with not a single decoration of any kind. An oblong-shaped clasp or brooch held the ends of the mantle together at the top. It was all gold, as was the high and brilliant crown which she wore. Her hair and her eyes seemed of medium brown. Her feet were bare, but these I did not always see, as they were sometimes covered by the moving clouds on which Our Lady stood. She continued to smile. Then I saw her heart appear, encircled with red roses, the symbol of suffering as it was revealed to me, and sending forth flames of fire. With her left hand Our Lady seemed to be holding up slightly the upper part of her mantle, so that her Immaculate Heart could be seen. Then solemnly and distinctly, in calm yet majestic tones, I heard these words: "I am Our Lady of America. I desire that my children honor me, especially by the purity of their lives."

(Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil, The Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA©, Fostoria, OH, Pg. 10.)

This magnificent beauty of Our Lady's is precisely the result of her relationship to the three persons of the Most Holy Trinity. She is daughter of the Father, the firstborn creature modeled on The Eternal Word. She is Mother of the Son, the Sacred Humanity Who is God; therefore, she is Mother of God and of the Mystical Christ. She is Spouse of the Holy Spirit Who is the Love between Father and Son and Who sets her on fire with the flame of that same Eternal Love. Her splendor is unique. She is Queen of heaven and earth. Father Patrick Greenough, OFM Conv., in his book, **THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**, page 90, addresses the importance of all our Marian dogmas in terms of this unique relationship of Mary to the Most Holy Trinity Trinity.

The Theotokos, while declaring that Mary is the Mother of God, clarifies the Incarnation, by stating that Jesus is one person, the Son of God made flesh Who has two natures, human and divine. The Immaculate Conception, while declaring that Mary was conceived without sin, states that Jesus is the perfect Redeemer who preserved her from sin. The Virginity of Mary, while stating that Mary conceived Jesus without sexual relations, states that the origins of Jesus were both human and divine. The Assumption states that Mary's entrance into heaven body and soul is the fulfillment of the words of Jesus, that whoever believes in Him will never die, but will have eternal life.

Our Blessed Lady spoke often to Sister Mildred about the Divine Indwelling and wished to impress on us the greatness of this gift of God's Divine Presence within our souls through sanctifying grace. She called this focus on the interior life and sanctification from within the spiritual reform of life so urgently needed in our world today. On November 22 and 23, 1957 she appeared under another new image, revealing herself as she really and truly is, the Immaculate Tabernacle of the Indwelling God!

Our Lady was standing on a globe, her right foot resting on a crescent or quarter moon, the left on the snout of a rather small and very ugly looking dragon. I saw fire come out of his huge jaws, but not very much, as he could not open them wide enough because of Our Lady's foot. ... Our Lady was all in white. Her veil was so long that it seemed to envelop the globe halfway. ...The veil was held about her head by a wreath of white roses. Her feet were bare.

The previous day Our Lady had appeared with her hands outstretched. At this second visit she slowly raised them, then crossed them on her breasts 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 breasts, as though through a veil, the Triangle and the Eye, which is often depicted as the symbol of the Divine Indwelling, could be visibly seen. ...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." She seemed suffused in a soft glow of light that appeared to come from within her. It seemed to permeate and, as it were, saturate her whole being, even her apparel and the roses. (Diary, Pgs. 18, 22-23.)

Our Lady stated that her Immaculate Heart is the channel through which the graces of the Sacred Heart are given to men (Diary, Pg. 18.) and she pleaded with us to come to her to learn the true love of her Son, for to grow more like to the Heart of Jesus we must go to His Mother whose heart is most like His. Holiness consists in our ceaseless transformation into the image of Christ. What pleasure we give to the Blessed Trinity when God sees us as such an image of His Son. (Diary, Pg. 16.) Earlier, on May 5, 1957, Our Lady had confirmed her role as Mediatrix of Grace when she showed herself to Sister as our "**Mother of Mercy.**" May we never forget these precious words!

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 '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."

"I am the Mother of Mercy!"

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