

## Scripture Reading

### **A Reading of the Gospel according to John (John 19:26-27)**

When Jesus then saw His Mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His Mother, "Woman, behold, Your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your Mother!" From that hour the disciple took Her into his own household. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Reflection ~ The Reason Jesus Gives Us Mary**

**The first thing Jesus did when He came into the world.** God in His infinite wisdom and creativity could have willed that Jesus came into the world in His first coming in a different way. But, no, it was to be through Mary, the Immaculate One, to whom Jesus has to submit Himself in fidelity and obedience as a son from the time He was born incarnate of Mary till the hour of His public ministry, thirty years later. For at least thirty years, Jesus is the most obedient of sons, obeying and carrying out the wishes of His Immaculate Mother who is always in perfect union with God's divine will. Subjecting Himself in obedience to Immaculate Mary is the sweetest part of carrying out the divine will of His Heavenly Father. According to St Louis de Monfort, Jesus gave more glory to God the Father by submission to His Mother during those thirty years than He would have given Him in converting the whole world by the working of the most stupendous miracles (cf. True Devotion to Mary, Ch 1, #18). We too should walk in the footsteps of Jesus and devote ourselves to Mary through a filial consecration of ourselves to Her so that we too may carry out the will of our Heavenly Father.

**Jesus gives us Mary to be our spiritual mother.** As in the order of nature a child must have a father and a mother, so likewise in the order of grace, a true child of the Church must have God for his Father and Mary for his Mother. Thus, Mary is the mother of Jesus by nature, and our mother in the order of grace by Her singular participation in the saving mission of Jesus (cf. LG #61-62). *This maternity of Mary in the order of grace began with the consent which She gave in faith at the Annunciation and which She sustained without wavering beneath the Cross, and lasts until the eternal fulfillment of all the elect (LG #61-62).* Thus, we call Mary 'Mother' not just because of our loving sentiments towards Her but because She is truly our Mother in the order of divine grace. Thus, the fourth Commandment "honour your father and mother" should not just be in reference to our earthly parents but also our spiritual mother as well. She is the mother Jesus, on behalf of God the Father, gives us through St John the Apostle standing at the foot of the cross on Calvary.

**Mary is the living mold of God.** St Augustine says Mary is the living mold of God which forms the God-Man Jesus Christ without losing any of the essence of His Divinity. She is the mold that produced the mystical Head of the Church, and naturally goes on to produce the members of the mystical Body. It is inconceivable to think that the members of the mystical Body of Christ are produced in another way different from that which produced the Head, Her first-born. She is the living mold that will form Her mystical children effectively and perfectly to bear the features of Her first-born Jesus Christ so that they are fit to enter Heaven. Thus, St Louis de Monfort asserts Mary is the shortest, easiest and most secure route to Jesus.

**As spiritual mother of God's children, Mary has been given great power to protect and nourish Her children.** The need for Mary's role as spiritual mother of God's children will end only at the eternal fulfillment of all the elect (cf. LG #61-62). Mary's unique role in salvation history is enshrined in prophesy in Scripture. She is the Woman whose child will crush the head of the ancient serpent (cf. Genesis 3:15). By the Holy Spirit, She will mold Her mystical children united to Jesus to form the heel that will eventually bring a close to Satan's kingdom in our world. Endowed with God's power, Mother Mary is our invincible protection against all evil and harm if we remain close to Her by honouring Her as our mother and queen, praying to Her, practising Her virtues and consecrating ourselves to Jesus through Her.

### **Conversation with Jesus**

Precious Lord, thank You for the inestimable gift of Mary, Your Mother and mine too. She exists only for Your glory. Mary is the shortest, easiest and most secure route to You. This route is through Her Immaculate Heart, the living tabernacle of God, which no evil dare come near nor can have access to. In this enclosed Garden of the Holy Trinity I will be formed to become another Jesus through the action of the Holy Spirit. As She has died to Herself and lives only for God, She will teach me to die to myself so that I can pick up my cross and follow You to climb Mount Calvary together. Mary, Mother of Salvation, whose prayer is more powerful than that of the whole heavenly court, pray for me. Thank You Jesus. Praise You Jesus.