

Scripture Reading

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

When Jesus saw His Mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your Mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection – Why Jesus gives us Mary to be our Spiritual Mother

Mary's unique role in our salvation is guaranteed and enshrined in sacred Scripture. *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel.*" (*Genesis 3:15*). After the Fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, God rebuked the Ancient Serpent and declared Mary and Jesus its arch rivals. Only these two persons were mentioned by God. Thus, God made known to Satan that these two would be His key weapons in His plan of salvation for mankind. All of God's power is made available to Jesus and Mary for the final defeat of Satan for the re-establishment of God's Kingdom on earth. We can be sure Mary has all the power to help us overcome any evil if we turn to her for help.

God who is omnipotent is pleased to make Mary indispensable in His plan of salvation. God could have done without the role of Mary. But in His infinite wisdom, God made Mary indispensable in His plan of salvation. His plan of salvation hinges on the "fiat" of Mary. The messenger of God, Archangel Gabriel had to make a presentation to Mary, requesting her to be the Mother of the Saviour. God waited for Mary to say "Yes". And Mary did with all her simple heart though she did not fully understand God's plan. Mary was not forced, she acted out of her own freewill. She said "Yes" even in the full knowledge that it could potentially bring her great difficulty and danger as an unwed mother. She overcame her fears as she placed all her trust in God. God was not wrong to choose Mary. God also wanted her to be a model for the rest of His children in saying "yes" to God's will.

Jesus indicates to us the power of the intercession of His Mother Mary. In the Gospel according to John, the first miracle of Jesus is the turning of water into wine at the request of Mother Mary at a wedding feast when the wine ran out (cf. John 2:1-12). At first Jesus demurred, saying that His time had not arrived but in the end He did what Mary requested, thus, performing His first miracle. From this we can learn a very important lesson that Jesus wants us to learn: how powerful Mother Mary's intercession for Her children is. St Louis Marie de Monfort had a deep insight into the role of Mary in our salvation. He said that Mary's intercession to Jesus for us is more powerful than that of the whole heavenly court which includes the Apostles, the Patriarchs, the martyrs and the great saints of our Lord!

The Immaculate Heart of Mary is united to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through grace and her will. Of all God's creatures, Mary is the only one pure and strong enough to do what God wants to be done to help Jesus in His plan of salvation. Mary was wondrously redeemed by grace of Her Son at her Immaculate Conception, a privilege accorded to no other creature. At the Annunciation, Mary said to Archangel Gabriel: *I am the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done to me as you have said* (Luke 1:38), thus putting herself entirely and unreservedly into God's service. United to Jesus in heart and divine mission right to the end, Mary stood at the foot of the Cross and offered up the Sacrifice of Her Son to God the Father for the salvation of all sinners. Mary's unique role in our salvation, and all her graces are Christocentric. Mary exists solely for the glory of God. "The world being unworthy," said St Augustine, "to receive the Son of God directly from the hands of the Father, He gave His Son to Mary for the world to receive Him from her."

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, thank You for the priceless gift of our Blessed Mother Mary. Is there any person who is closer to You or who can intercede for us more powerfully than our Blessed Mother? You know how great the love of a mother can be, and so in Your great generosity and wisdom, You give us Mary to form and guide us so that we will walk faithfully on the road that leads to our glorious eternal inheritance. Mary is our safest shortcut to You. After You, we owe so much to Mary. If not for her "fiat" we would still be under the ancient sentence of death. Give us a lively devotion to our Blessed Mother so that in imitating her steadfast faith, profound humility, spotless purity and perseverance, we may like Mary render God glory through our every thought, word and deed. Mary, Mother of Salvation and our Mother too, we claim your care and protection as your children in Christ. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.