

May 8 ~ MARY: MOTHER OF CHRIST

"Jesus Christus, Deus homo: Jesus Christ, God man. This is one of the 'mighty works of God,' which we should reflect upon and thank him for. He has come to bring 'peace on earth to men of good will,' to all who want to unite their wills to the holy will of God -- not just the rich, not just the poor, but everyone: all the brethren. We are all brothers in Jesus, children of God, brothers of Christ. His mother is our mother." 14

Let us offer to our Mother today: *Jesus himself, when we receive him in holy Communion.*

May 9 ~ MARY: WELCOMING THE SHEPHERDS

"You must look at the Child in the manger. He is our Love. Look at him, realizing that the whole thing is a mystery. We need to accept this mystery on faith and use our faith to explore it very deeply. To do this, we must have the humble attitude of a Christian soul." 15

Let us offer to our Mother today: *Small hidden sacrifices, especially those that go against the grain.*

May 10 ~ MARY: PRESENTING JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

"She teaches us to have charity. Remember the scene of the presentation of Jesus in the temple. An old man, Simeon, said to Mary, 'Behold: This child is destined to bring about the fall of many and the rise of many in Israel--and to be a sign, which people will refuse to acknowledge, so that the thoughts of many hearts shall be made manifest. As for your own soul, it shall have a sword pierce it.' So great is Mary's love for all mankind that she, too, fulfilled Christ's words: 'Greater love has no man than this, that he should lay down his life for his friends.' "16

Let us offer to our Mother today: *A pilgrimage to one of her shrines.*

May 11 ~ MARY: WELCOMING THE MAGI

"Going into the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother. Our Lady is always near her Son. The Magi are not received by a king on a high throne, but by a child in the arms of his mother. Let us ask the Mother of God, who is our mother, to prepare for us the way that leads to the fullness of love.... Her sweet heart knows the surest path for finding Christ." 17

Let us offer to our Mother today: *A visit to a poor person to communicate our Lady's concern for that person.*

May 12 ~ MARY: HER FLIGHT TO EGYPT WITH JOSEPH AND THE CHILD JESUS

"The mystery of Mary helps us to see that in order to approach God, we must become little. Christ said to his disciples: 'Believe me, unless you become like little children again, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.' "To become children, we must renounce our pride and self-sufficiency, recognizing that we can do nothing by ourselves. We must realize that we need grace and the help of God our Father to find our way and keep to it." 18

Let us offer to our Mother today: *A visit to a lonely person to share the joy of trusting in God alone.*

May 13 ~ MARY: HER HIDDEN LIFE WITH JESUS

"I like to go back in my imagination to the years Jesus spent close to his mother, years which span almost the whole of his life on earth. I like to picture him as a little child, cared for by Mary, who kisses him and plays with him. I like to see him growing up before the loving eyes of his mother and of Joseph, his father on earth. What tenderness and care Mary and the holy Patriarch must have shown toward Jesus, as they looked after him during his childhood, all the while, silently, learning so much from him. Their souls would become more and more like the soul of that Son, who was both man and God. This is why his mother, and after her St. Joseph, understand better than anyone the feelings of the heart of Christ; and the two of them are thus the best way, I would say the only way, to reach the Savior." 19

Let us offer to our Mother today: *The effort of doing our ordinary work well, on time, with competence and finesse.*

May 14 ~ MARY: LOSING AND FINDING THE CHILD JESUS

"The Mother of God, who looked for her Son so anxiously when he was lost (through no fault of her own) and experienced such great joy in finding him, will help us retrace our steps and put right whatever may be necessary when, because of our carelessness or our sins, we have been unable to recognize Christ. With her help, we will know the happiness of holding him in our arms once more and telling him we will never lose him again." 20

Let us offer to our Mother today: *A good, sincere, sorrowful confession of our sins and failures, in the sacrament of Penance.*