

May 1 ~ MARY: THE MOTHER OF GOD

"When the Blessed Virgin said yes, freely, to the plans revealed to her by the Creator, the divine Word assumed a human nature -- a rational soul and a body -- which was formed in the most pure womb of Mary. The divine nature and the human were united in a single Person: Jesus Christ, true God and, thenceforth, true man; the only begotten and eternal son of the Father and from that moment on, as man, the true son of Mary. This is why our Lady is the mother of the Incarnate Word, of the second person of the Blessed Trinity, who has united our human nature to himself for ever, without any confusion of the two natures. The greatest praise we can give to the Blessed Virgin is to address her loudly and clearly by the name that expresses her very highest dignity: 'Mother of God'." 7

Let us offer to our Mother today: *Brief but frequent prayers of love, such as: "Mother of God, your petitions are most powerful."*

May 2 ~ MARY: THE MOST PERFECT CREATURE

"She who is full of grace, the object of God's pleasure, exalted above all the angels and the saints, lived an ordinary life. "Mary is as much a creature as we are, with a heart like ours, made for joy and mirth as well as suffering and tears. Before Gabriel communicates to her God's plan, our Lady does not know that she has been chosen from all eternity to be the mother of the Messiah. She sees herself as a lowly creature. That is why she can acknowledge, with full humility, that 'he who is mighty has done great things' for her."8

Let us offer to our Mother today: *"Many glances of affection and many words of love, when we see her image or picture in our home, in the church, or anywhere."*

May 3 ~ MARY AND THE BLESSED TRINITY

"Through the Incarnation of our Lord in her immaculate womb, Mary, the Daughter of God the Father, is also the Spouse of God the Holy Spirit and the Mother of God the Son."9

Let us offer to our Mother today: *"A "Hail Mary" each time the clock strikes another hour."*

May 4 ~ MARY 'S FAMILY: THE TRINITY ON EARTH

"It is only natural that the Church rejoice as one contemplates the modest home of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. We read in the hymn from Matins on the feast of the Holy Family: 'It is pleasing to recall the humble house of Nazareth and its slender resources. It is pleasing to tell again in song Jesus' hidden life. Jesus grows up in hidden seclusion, to be trained in Joseph's unpretentious trade. The loving mother sits beside her dear Son, the good wife by her husband, content if her loving attention can ease and comfort them in their weariness.' " 10

Let us offer to our Mother today: *"A loving review of her life with Jesus, as we recite the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary."*

May 5 - MARY: HER IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

"How would we have acted, if we could have chosen our own mother? I'm sure we would have chosen the one we have, adorning her with every possible grace. That is what Christ did. Christ being all powerful, all wise, Love itself, his power carried out his will. . . . This is the clearest reason why our Lord granted his mother, from the very moment of her Immaculate Conception, all possible privileges. She was free from the power of Satan. She is beautiful, spotless and pure in soul and body." 11

Let us offer to our Mother today: *The renewal of our baptismal vows.*

May 6 - THE ANNUNCIATION - MARY: THE FIRST TABERNACLE

"If you seek Mary, you will find Jesus. And you will learn a bit more about what is in the heart of God, who humbles himself, discarding all manifestations of his power and majesty to take the form of a servant. Speaking in human terms, we could say that God outdoes himself, because he goes much further than he needs to go in order to save us. The only way to measure what he does is to say that it cannot be measured; it comes from a madness of love which leads him to take on our flesh and bear the weight of our sins." 12

Let us offer to our Mother today: *The Angelus recited punctually at noon and with great affection.*

May 7- MARY: OUR MODEL IN ORDINARY LIFE

"We can't forget that Mary spent nearly every day of her life just like millions of other women who look after their families, bring up their children, and take care of their houses. Mary sanctifies the ordinary, everyday things -- what some people wrongly regard as unimportant and insignificant: everyday work, looking after those closest to you, visits to friends and relatives. What a blessed ordinariness, that can be so full of love of God." 13

Let us offer to our Mother today: *Affectionate details of service and attention to those closest to us.*