



The following is an excerpt from: The Catholic News Agency, found online at <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/resources/prayers/devotions/to-the-blessed-virgin-mary/month-of-mary-may-devotions/>

***“God wills that all his gifts should come to us through Mary”*** (St. Bernard of Clairvaux)

“It was in Rome, towards the end of the eighteenth century, one fine evening in May. A child of the poor gathered his companions around him and led them to a statue of Mary, before which a lamp was burning, as is the custom in that holy city. There, these fresh young voices sang the Litany of our Lady. The next day, the little group, followed by other children, again gathered at the feet of the Mother of God. Next came their mothers, to join the little assembly. Soon, other groups were formed, and the devotion rapidly became popular. Holy souls, troubled by the disorderly conduct which always increases and becomes graver at the return of the pleasant springtime, saw in these growing practices the hand of God, and they cooperated with the designs of Providence by approving and promoting this new devotion, as a public and solemn act of reparation. The Month of Mary was founded.”

“This is the month in which, in the churches and individual homes, the most affectionate and fervent homage of prayers and devotions from the hearts of Christians are raised to Mary....” During this month we offer her special presents and little sacrifices in her honor; make pilgrimages or visit churches dedicated to her; and spend a bit more attention and dedication to the recitation of the rosary. In light of these, the following Marian readings are offered for this week:

#### **May 22 - MARY: EVER VIRGIN**

"The purity, humility, and generosity of Mary are in sharp contrast to our wretchedness and selfishness. To the extent that we realize this, we should feel moved to imitate her. We too are creatures of God, and if we strive to imitate her fidelity, God will surely do great things in us. Our small worth is no obstacle, because God chooses what is of little value so that the power of his love may be more manifest." {"Cause of Our Joy," CPB, 172.}

Let us offer to our Mother today: The prayer "*Blessed be your purity*"

#### **May 23 - MARY: QUEEN OF THE APOSTLES**

"If we take our Lady's hand, she will make us realize more fully that all men are our brothers -- because we are all sons of that God whose daughter, spouse, and mother she is. Our neighbors' problems must be our problems. Christian fraternity should be something very deep in the soul, so that we are indifferent to no one. Mary, who brought up Jesus and accompanied him through his life and is now beside him in heaven, will help us recognize Jesus as he crosses our path and makes himself present to us in the needs of others." ["To Jesus through Mary," CPB, 145.]

Let us offer to our Mother today:

*A kind word, a friendly conversation, a helping hand to persons with whom we live or work.*

### **May 24 - MARY: HELP OF CHRISTIANS**

"Yes, we are still pilgrims, but our Mother has gone on ahead, where she points to the reward for our efforts. She tells us that we can make it. If we are faithful, we will reach home. Not only is the Blessed Virgin our model, but she is also the Help of Christians. And as we besiege her with our petitions -- 'Show that you are our Mother' -- she cannot help but watch over her children with motherly care." {"Mother of God and Our Mother," FG, 287.}

Let us offer to our Mother today:

*In addition to the mysteries of the day, one more part (five decades) of the Holy Rosary.*

### **May 25 - MARY: OUR MOTHER**

"Find out for yourself by personal experience the meaning of Mary's maternal love. It is not enough just to know that she is our Mother, and to think and talk about her as such. She is your Mother and you are her child. She loves you as if you were her only child in this world. Treat her accordingly. Tell her about everything that happens to you; honor her and love her. No one will do it for you or as well as you." {"Mother of God and our Mother," FG, 293.}

Let us offer to our Mother today:

*Many affectionate thoughts and prayers, by saying "Mary, my mother" each time we pause in our work.*

### **May 26 - MARY: THE WAY TO JESUS**

"Mary does the immense favor of bringing to the cross, of placing face to face with the example of the Son of God, those who come close to her and contemplate her life. It is in this confrontation that Christian life is decided. And here Mary intercedes for us so that our behavior may lead to a reconciliation of the younger brother -- you and me -- with the firstborn Son of the Father.

"Many conversions, many decisions to give oneself to the service of God have been preceded by an encounter with Mary. Our Lady has encouraged us to look for God, to desire to change, to lead a new life." {"To Jesus through Mary," CPB, 149.}

Let us offer to our Mother today:

*Teaching someone how to say the Holy Rosary.*

### **May 27 - MARY: MOTHER OF FAIR LOVE**

"This is what explains Mary's life -- her love. A complete love, so complete that she forgets herself and is happy just to be there where God wants her, fulfilling with care what God wants her to do. That is why even her slightest action is never routine or vain but, rather, full of meaning. Mary, our Mother, is for us both an example and a way. In the ordinary circumstances in which God wants us to live, we have to try to be like her." {"To Jesus through Mary," CPB, 148.}

Let us offer to our Mother today:

The resolution to say, before going to sleep every night, three Hail Marys.

### **May 28 - THE ASSUMPTION MARY: TAKEN UP TO HEAVEN**

"Mary has gone to heaven in both body and soul, and the angels rejoice. I can imagine, too, the delight of St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse, who awaited her in paradise. Yet what of us who remain on earth? Our faith tells us that here below, in our present life, we are pilgrims, wayfarers. Our lot is one of suffering, of sacrifices, and privations. Nonetheless, joy must mark the rhythm of our steps. 'Serve the Lord with joy' -- there is no other way to serve him." {"Cause of our Joy," CPB, 177.}

Let us offer to our Mother today:

A smile when someone corrects us or misjudges us.

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Next week we continue learning about Mary and our spiritual life and Devotions to Our Blessed Mother. More information and a video link to learn more about May, the Month of Mary can be found on our website [www.annunziata.org](http://www.annunziata.org)