

August: Mary, the Rosary, Memorial Mass and Communion of Saints – Pt. 3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith. For the sake of the joy that lay before him he endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God. – Heb. 12: 1-2

Last month, I wrote about the Memorial Mass and in June the Communion of Saints. This month, I want to look at Mary, the mother of our Lord and how the three are related. In the icon above, to the left of the Holy Spirit we see the Blessed Mother. Her crown reminds us that in addition to being “Mother of our Lord” she is also “Queen of Heaven.”

She is accompanied by a contingent of angels who serve her, all with heads bowed. Her attention is directed to the Holy Spirit. We recall that at her consent, our Blessed Mother was overshadowed by the power of the Holy Spirit and Jesus was conceived within her womb. The Holy Spirit is her true spouse, and through His incarnation Jesus is truly her son.

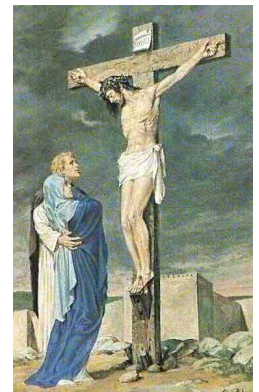


Because she was born free from the stain of original sin, Mary is recognized as the greatest of God’s created beings. There were only four people in all of creation that were born without the stain of original sin: Mary, Jesus, Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve fell away from God through disobedience, but Mary and Jesus brought souls back through obedience. Because she chose to remain faithful to God’s perfect will, she is worthy of her royal state. The Blessed Mother doesn’t seek out our prayer for her own status or edification; but she continues to always direct our prayer to her son, as she did at the

wedding feast at Cana when she told the steward “do whatever He tells you.”

When we are at prayer and at Mass, Mary is there also, joining our prayer to hers, forever teaching and encouraging us to draw closer to her son as any good Jewish mother would. God’s will for Mary is to draw us into relationship with Him, in prayer and at Mass. Do you assist her in that mission? He tells us, as He told the disciple at the foot of the cross, “Behold your mother.” As a mother, she is forever encouraging us to pray.

This is why Catholics pray to and with Mary. This is why Catholics aren’t afraid to turn to their mother. Are you part of that “great cloud of witnesses?” Does your prayer ease the suffering of someone in need? Do you regard God



with reverence? Do you attend Mass and frequent confession with reverence? I invite you to re-read the passage from St. Paul's letter to the Hebrews that I quoted above and look for the place where you fit in.

Ed Ibarra

Lecturer10644@yahoo.com



The August business meeting is on Tuesday, August 6th at 7:00pm. The second Friday Memorial Mass for the deceased Knights of this council is on Friday, August 9th at 5:45pm. The Respect Life Rosary begins at about 6:30; please go! Don't forget to make a good confession and get cleaned up spiritually. Pray that God give us the grace to seek Him in prayer. Pray for the men and women who serve in law enforcement and the military. Pray that politicians have a conversion of heart. Pray for strong families. Above all, pray that Holy Mother Church around the world can withstand the buffets of her enemies. Pray for our priests and for our Holy Father Pope Francis.

