

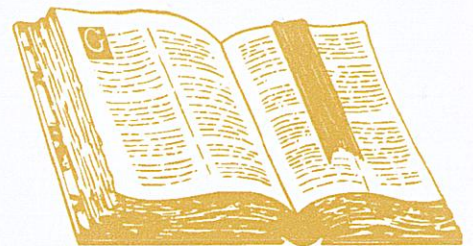
Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION

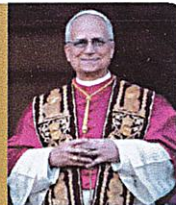


If we reflect on the title that the early Church gave to Mary as the “Mother of God” we cannot help being struck by what seems to be an impossibility: how can a human person be the mother of God? Reason automatically breaks down if it attempts to explain it. If at all we want to enter into this mystery our only access is through love; divine love which unites heaven and earth in its embrace. It is love which brings the Second Person of the Trinity to “empty himself” so as to become the child of a human mother. It is love which brings Mary to “empty herself” so as to be able to contain this divine child. This is the love which Mary proclaims in her Magnificat. At the height of the power of the Roman Empire this love entered the world and set about its task of turning the world upside

down by filling the hungry with good things and sending the rich away empty. It is a love which lifts up the lowly and brings down the mighty from their thrones. However, for this love to be effective it must become alive and active in your heart and my heart. In other words, we are all called as Christians to be “another Mary” by allowing Jesus with his love to be incarnated in our lives; echoing St Paul when he says, “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me” (Gal 2,20).



POPE LEO XIV THE HOLY SEE APOSTOLIC EXHORTATIONS



SAINT FRANCIS

7. Eight centuries ago, Saint Francis prompted an evangelical renewal in the Christians and society of his time. Wealthy and self-confident, the young Francis was taken aback and converted by his direct contact with the poor and outcast of society. The story of his life continues to appeal to the minds and hearts of believers, and many non-believers as well. It “changed history.”⁵ A further step on the same path was taken by the Second Vatican Council, as Saint Paul VI pointed out when he said that “the ancient parable of the Samaritan served as the model for the Council’s spirituality.”⁶ I am convinced that the preferential choice for the poor is a source of extraordinary renewal both for the Church and for society, if we can only set ourselves free of our self-centeredness and open our ears to their cry.

5. J. Bergoglio - A. Skorka, *Sobre el cielo y la tierra*, Buenos Aires 2013, 214.

6. Paul VI, Homily at the Mass for the Last Public Session of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council (7 December 1965): AAS 58 (1966), 55-56.

Pope Francis Angelus Apostolic Exhortation: *Gaudete in Domino*

Mary has grasped, better than all other creatures, that God accomplishes wonderful things: His name is holy, He shows His mercy, He raises up the humble, He is faithful to His promises. Not that the apparent course of her life in any way departs from the ordinary, but she meditates on the least signs of God, pondering them in her heart. Not that she is in any way spared sufferings: she stands, the mother of sorrows, at the foot of the cross, associated in an eminent way with the sacrifice of the innocent Servant. But she is also open in an unlimited degree to the joy of the resurrection; and she is also taken up, body and soul, into the glory of heaven. The first of the redeemed, immaculate from the moment of her conception, the incomparable dwelling-place of the Spirit, the pure abode of the Redeemer of mankind, she is at the same time the beloved Daughter of God and, in Christ, the Mother of all. She is the perfect model of the Church both on earth and in glory.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Rev 12: 1

**A great sign appeared in heaven:
a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon beneath her feet,
and on her head a crown of twelve stars.**

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
who assumed the Immaculate Virgin Mary,
the Mother of your Son,
body and soul into heavenly glory,
grant, we pray,
that, always attentive to the things that are above,
we may merit to be sharers of her glory.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab

God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant
was seen within his temple.

And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with
the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown
of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth
pains and the agony of giving birth. And another sign appeared
in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten
horns, and on his heads seven diadems. His tail swept down a
third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the
dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so
that when she bore her child he might devour it. She gave birth to
a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron,
but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, and the
woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared
by God.

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation
and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of
his Christ have come.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 45(44):10. 11. 12. 16. R.10b

R. On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

The daughters of kings are those whom you favour.
On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

Listen, O daughter; pay heed and give ear:
forget your own people and your father's house.

So will the king desire your beauty.
He is your lord, pay homage to him.

They are escorted amid gladness and joy;
they pass within the palace of the king.

SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 15:20-27

Brothers and sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the
first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came
death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For
as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But
each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming
those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he
delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule

and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put
all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is
death. For 'God has put all things in subjection under his feet.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia.

**Mary has been taken up into heaven;
the host of angels rejoice.**

Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-56

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country,
to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and
greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary,
the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy
Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among
women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this
granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For
behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby
in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that
there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.'

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices
in God my Saviour, for he has looked on the humble estate of his
servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his
name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to
generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the
proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty
from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the
hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has
helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to
our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring for ever.'

And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to
her home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this oblation, our tribute of homage,
rise up to you, O Lord,

R. and, through the intercession of the most
Blessed Virgin Mary,

R. whom you assumed into heaven,
may our hearts, aflame with the fire of love,
constantly long for you.

R. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

R. COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Lk 1:48-49

**All generations will call me blessed,
for he who is mighty has done great things for me.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received the Sacrament of salvation,
we ask you to grant, O Lord,
that, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
whom you assumed into heaven,
we may be brought to the glory of the resurrection.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.