

Lenten Session # 05: Mary – Leading to Jesus

Presentation: Fr. Vinod Kumar Nagothu

Opening Prayer: Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins my Mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful; O Mother of thy Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy clemency hear and answer me. Amen.

Gospel: John 2:1-5 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; and both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it.”

Introducing the Topic: St. Louis de Montfort in his book: True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin used it.

My experience as Priest: Mary mother of Priests.

The three approaches:

Biblical Approach: The annunciation, the Visitation, the Magnificat, The presentation of seven sorrows, Nativity, Pentecost, Flight of Egypt, Finding in the Temple, at the foot of the Cross, Wedding at Cana, in the book of Revelation.

Writings of the Church:

“We must look upon Mary as an accomplished model of every virtue and perfection that the Holy Spirit has fashioned in any simple creature. We will then be able to imitate her in the way suitable to each of us.” (St. Louis Grignion de Montfort) Author of the Marian classic of consecration: *True Devotion to Mary*.

“When Mary became the Mother of God, true God and true Man, she also became our Mother. In his great mercy, Jesus wished to call us His brothers and sisters, and by this name He constituted us adopted children of Mary.” (St. John Bosco – founder of the Salesians and great lover of Our Lady Help of Christians.)

“In danger, anguish or doubt think of Mary and call upon her. Following her, you will never lose your way. Praying to her, you will never sink into despair. Contemplating her, you will never go wrong.” (St. Bernard, saint, poet, writer, Doctor of the church and author of the famous Marian poem “Stella Maris” – Our Lady Star of the Sea.

“Blessed are those who abandon themselves into our Lady’s hands. Their names are written in the Book of Life.” (St. Bonaventure –Franciscan, Doctor of the Church)

“In His eagerness to show you mercy, God has given His Son as your Advocate. And then to make your confidence even stronger, He has given you another Advocate, who obtains through her prayers whatever she asks. Go to Mary, and you will see salvation.” (St. Alphonsus Maria Liguori –founder of the Redemptorist, prolific writer, author of one of the most famous Marian masterpieces – *Glories of Mary*, and Doctor of the Church.)

Vatican council II: Documents

Marian Feasts and Devotions: The most prominent Marian feast days in the General Roman Calendar are:

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| January 1 | <u>Mary, the Holy Mother of God</u> |
| March 25 | <u>The Annunciation of the Lord</u> |
| May 31 | <u>The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</u> |
| Monday after Pentecost - | <u>The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church</u> |
| 9 days after Corpus Christi | <u>The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary</u> |
| August 15 | <u>The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</u> |
| August 22 | <u>The Queen ship of Mary</u> |
| September 8 | <u>The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</u> |
| September 15 | <u>Our Lady of Sorrows</u> |
| October 7 | <u>Our Lady of the Rosary</u> |
| November 21 | <u>The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</u> |

December 8 The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Optional Marian memorials in the General Roman Calendar are:

February 11 Our Lady of Lourdes

May 13 Our Lady of Fatima

July 16 Our Lady of Mount Carmel

August 5 Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major

September 12 The Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary

December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe

These include such as the Rosary, the Hail Mary, the Hail Holy Queen, the Memorare, the Angelus, the hymns and Other Marian prayers are based on names given to Our Lady from her apparitions, or other such supernatural phenomena, confirmed by the Church. She has often appeared to humble people in small towns requesting that we strive to live in holiness and obedience to her divine Son. Thus, there are prayers to Our Lady of Good Counsel, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady of Knock, Our Lady of La Salette, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Our lady of the Wayside.

Overflowing with immense love for Jesus and Mary, the saints cannot contain their sentiments of love, admiration and confidence in Mary's presence and intercession. Devotion and love for Mary leads us directly into the Heart of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The last recorded words of Our Lady in Sacred Scripture were at the Wedding Feast of Cana: "Do whatever He tells you." (Jn. 2:5) Indeed, truly the best advice in the world!

Discussion:

1. How do we promote Marian devotions in our families and in the Parish?
2. How would Marian spirituality fit in with today's situations?