

June 9, 2025

Daily Reflections



MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

By Sister Jane DeLisle, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's Gospel

*Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother
and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas,
and Mary of Magdala.*

*When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved,
he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son."*

*Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother."
And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.*

JOHN 19:25-27

Reflection

Today we focus on the memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, honored as Mother of the Church. How does one become Mother of the Church? The short answer is: by consistent fidelity to the grace of God's abiding presence. While we are not Mary, her witness and commitment offer us a way to imagine our own lives -- seeking always to be united with God and one another in fidelity to the graces given to us throughout our lives.

Most images of Mary are frozen in time as a young woman who was visited by an angel and agreed to be the mother of God's son. From that day forward she is generally imaged as a new mother with baby Jesus in her arms.

Yet, Mary grew up and grew old. Mary knew all the joys, sorrows, and sequence of ordinary days of life as a wife and mother. AND she had a lifetime of countless experiences that shaped and matured her as a woman of faith. In it all, her life's focus was on responding to God's invitations. She experienced great joys and deep sorrows, and life in the ordinary marked her days as it does ours. Jesus gave her to us as a spiritual mother to us all.

Mary is a woman for all seasons of life. Mother Mary shows us what it is like to nurture a deep relationship with God, and to make room within oneself for the interior disposition needed to notice God's presence and movement in all aspects of life. She was filled to overflowing with God's love, and yet that did not spare her heartache. Love enabled her to embrace the entirety of life, especially suffering -- which is woven into the fabric of life lived fully.

Mary believed that God's promises would be fulfilled in her. Her many appearances reveal God's unconditional love and care for us. She tells us that we, too, are called to be in a special relationship with God that is unique to each of us. We need only follow her example of openness to God, who offers us every kind of grace needed. Mary lived her original "YES" in fidelity to God's great Love and Promise, every day of her life.

In the truth of the lives of Jesus and Mary, love continued to be poured out amid joy, sorrow, and the ordinary encounters with God. So too for us: God is with us precisely in all our lived reality. And in the anguish of human heartache and great suffering, God is with us most intimately. We are to trust, hold fast, find God present with us in the pain, and dull emptiness, and in all our heart's anguish. God is with us in it all.

In this is our hope. Every moment holds potential to encounter and embrace God.



Virgin Mary Statue in White Room
Photo by Mart Production

For Pondering

- What is my lived reality? How is God with and within me?
 - What does Mary, mother of Jesus have to teach me?
 - To what am I invited now?
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For Prayer

I give thanks that the Mother of Jesus has been given to me, to us, to be our spiritual mother.

Mary, mother of mercy, our life, and our hope, please help me live in relationship with God every day of my life and to rely on God for my inspiration to live faithfully God's way of love, mercy, and compassion. May I live with the conviction that God's promises will be fulfilled in me. Amen.

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