

## MOTHER TERESA ON MARY

O most pure heart of Mary, allow me to enter your heart, to share your interior life. You see and know my needs, help me to do "whatever Jesus tells me" ... that my human needs may be changed into thirst for God alone. We must say, "I belong to you. You can do whatever you like."

A gentleman of the Protestant faith, said "I love you, your work, everything I see, but there is one thing I do not understand: Our Lady. You are full of Mary." I replied to him: "No Mary, no Jesus -no mother, no son."

The most wonderful part of redemption began in such a humble way. God did not send Gabriel to the palace of the great and rich but to the young girl Mary in the one room cottage at Nazareth.

Mary was chosen, because although she was full of grace, she was also full of humility. She didn't think of the grace of the Son of God within her. She didn't dwell on the joy and sorrow that were hers as the Mother of God and of mankind. She only thought of how to serve. "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you." And then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, for nothing is impossible with God. You shall bear a son and name him Jesus." And Mary said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done unto me according to your word." Mary thought only of how to serve, of how to fulfill her vocation as handmaid of the Lord. Mary showed complete trust in God agreeing to be used as an instrument in his plan of salvation.

People all over the world offer Mary, our mother, beautiful gifts and cover her altar with flowers. We have no material gifts to offer her but let us give her flowers of kindness, the flower of a welcoming smile. On this beautiful feast day, let us crown her with the fragrant flowers of love, gentleness, meekness, and humility toward one another.

When we really belong to Mary, we will find obedience to be the greatest means for growing in holiness and living in the constant presence of God.

Let us beg Our Lady to make our hearts as humble as her Son's was. It is from her and in her that the heart of Jesus was formed. How much we can learn from Mary! She was humble because she was all for God. She was full of grace and so the Almighty could use her. She is sure to say to us, "Do whatever he tells you."

Love Mary. Love her as He loved her. Be a cause of joy to her as he was. Keep close to her as he did. Share everything with her, even the cross, as he did when she stood near the cross on Calvary. We must love her unconditionally, trust her fully, abandon ourselves to her totally and without reserve. Nothing is impossible for those who call Mary their mother. During the day, let us often raise our hearts to her and ask her how we can love God as she loved him, that we, too, can love him with her heart.

Our Lady knows us by heart and she will lead us to the surest and quickest path to holiness. At the marriage feast at Cana, only Mary noticed that the wine was running short. She felt bad for the young couple and wanted to spare them the humiliation of not having enough for their guests. What did she do? Without making any fuss, she quietly approached Jesus and simply said, "They have no wine." See the charity of Mary! See how she noticed the needs of others and was so delicate in speaking to Jesus. What if the servant at the wedding feast had not obeyed Jesus' simple request to fill the pots with water and serve the guests? If he had not obeyed, we would not have the joy of knowing Jesus' love for his Mother and the Mother's faith in the power of her Son. She still tells us, "Do whatever he tells you." Obey and you will experience the joy of loving and being loved.

Let us give Mary full liberty to use us for the glory of her Son, for if we really belong to her then our holiness is secure. We can only learn love for Mary on our knees and through the rosary.

Our Blessed Mother calls us to fast and do penance and Pray. Let us be faithful to these things if we are sincere in our desire to bring souls to Jesus. Pray, fast, & do penance for priests, to help them be holy & bring souls to Jesus.

Let us learn from Mary: humility, purity, sharing, and thoughtfulness. We will then, like Mary, become holy people, being able to look up and see only Jesus; our light and example will be only Jesus; and we will be able to spread his fragrance everywhere we go. We will flood our souls with his Spirit and so in us, through us, and with us glorify the Father.

From a letter Mother Teresa wrote on the day of her death: "Stand near Our Lady to listen to the thirst of Jesus and to answer with your whole heart. Loving trust and total surrender made Our Lady say 'yes' to the message of the angel. And cheerfulness made her run in haste to serve her cousin Elizabeth. That is so much our life: saying 'yes' to Jesus and running in haste to serve him in the poorest of the poor, Let us keep very close to Our Lady and she will make that same spirit grow in each one of us."

Obedience, well lived, frees us from selfishness and pride and helps us to find God. In him, we find the whole world. obedience is a special grace that produces unfailing peace, inward joy, and close union with God. Obedience lived with joy creates a deep awareness of his presence. Our Lady will teach us how to obey like Jesus, Who was obedient unto death.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, our Queen and Mother, be more and more our way to Jesus, the light of Jesus, and the life of Jesus in each one of us.

Mary was immaculately conceived Yet she humbly met Jesus, himself humiliated, carrying his cross. Near the cross she stood as one Of us, a sinner needing redemption.

We should pray: Mary, Mother of Jesus, help me to make my heart pure. Be a mother to me now." She will help us to have a pure heart, to pray, and to be one with God. We must be meek one another and then we will be all right with God, humble with him, proving our love in wholehearted service.

Let us consecrate our lives to Mary. How clean our words must be to be able to proclaim the good news. Mary will teach us to be Pure so that when others look at us they will see only Jesus.

The thoughtfulness of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph was so great that it made Nazareth the abode of the Most High. If we have that thoughtfulness for each other, our homes will really become the abode of God, Most High. The quickest and surest way to that goal is tame the tongue, using it to speak well of others. From the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. If your heart is full of love, you will speak of love. If Mary and Joseph were looking for a place to make a home for Jesus, would they choose your home?

Heart of the tenderest of mothers, cause of our joy, we consecrate ourselves unreservedly to you, our hearts, our bodies, our souls. We desire to belong to you in life and in death. You know, O Immaculate Mother, that your divine Son has chosen us in his infinite mercy, in spite of our misery and sinfulness, not only as his children and his spouses but also as his victims to console his divine heart in the sacrament of his love, to atone for sacrileges and to obtain pardon for poor sinners. We come today to offer him, through your most pure heart, the entire sacrifice of ourselves. Of our own free choice, we renounce all the desires and inclinations of our corrupt nature and we accept willingly and lovingly whatever sufferings he may be pleased to send us. But conscious of our weakness we implore you, O Holy Mother, to shield us with your maternal protection and to obtain from your divine son all the graces we need to persevere. Bless this house and each soul confided to our care our relations, friends, and benefactors, that all may persevere in grace or recover it if lost. When the hour of death comes, may our hearts, modeled on your Immaculate Heart, breathe forth their last sign into the heart of your divine Son. Amen.