

MARY, OUR MODEL AND PATRON

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IN ADELE'S WORDS – N° 4

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***“ALWAYS TAKE AS
YOUR MODEL, THE
MOST HOLY VIRGIN,
OUR GOOD PATRON ”
(229.4)***



From her early childhood, Adele lived and breathed her family's Christian atmosphere, which led her to love Jesus, to confide in the Virgin Mary and to pay particular attention to the poor. At age 14, she prepared for the sacrament of confirmation and showed a deep desire to belong totally to Jesus. She wants to be all His. In this desire, she is counting on Mary's companionship, convinced that welcoming the maternal care of his Mother, is the surest way to reach Jesus.

Conscious of her own impulsive and proud nature, Adele encounters in Mary an excellent model to imitate. With Mary and through the grace of God she can become humble, gentle and patient. Contemplating Mary in the gospels, Adele likes to highlight Mary's single-heartedness when she corresponds with her friends -"may our heart burn with love for the Lord alone" (35.13); as well as her obedience to the will of God, at whose service she has placed herself entirely ; "I am the handmaid of the Lord!" (35.1); her humility, which has attracted the Lord's gaze and attention, and allowed him to do great things in her, because she surrendered to His will. (287.4); faith, a living faith that has accompanied Mary throughout her life, marked by suffering, by unforeseen events and misunderstandings, and that even brought her to Calvary. There she accepted with courage and dignity the piercing pain, united with the suffering of the Son, to engender bringing humanity to new life. (160.6).

In the simplicity and hidden life of Mary in Nazareth, Adele sees the effectiveness of a faith that makes all other actions virtuous including the most common ones done with love. When Adele founds "*the Little Society*" with her friend Jeanne, she writes "Let us often have recourse to the protector of the Society, the most Holy Virgin. Oh, what influence she has with her divine Son! Let us place ourselves under her protection." (88.11). "We are hers and must therefore have for her the hearts of children, have frequent recourse to her with a confidence inspired by the most loving of Mothers." (574.3). "She is the Mother of our hope... Let us cast ourselves into her maternal embrace; she will never draw back or let us fall" (94.2).

With Father Chaminade, Adele discovers a consecration to Mary, and invites her friends to also give themselves to her. "We must have for her the hearts of children," in order to let Her form us in the image of His Son Jesus " (574.3).



**“THERE IS A
CERTAIN TALISMAN
IN THE SODALITY
WHICH HAS THE
PROPERTY OF
UNITING HEARTS;
THIS TALISMAN IS
THE LOVE FOR
JESUS AND MARY.”**

(ADELE DE BATZ)

As vowed religious, making a covenant with Mary, we pledge to help her in her apostolic mission: "Let us combine our efforts to snatch victims from the devil, to give fresh hearts to Jesus and to Mary." (320,4).

For the Glory of God and the salvation of all, Adele invites us "to bring them to the bosom of the Mother of God". (480.2). "Mary, who was transfixed by a sword of anguish, gave birth to us at the foot of the Cross of her Son" (192.7). Adele is convinced that the "favorites" of God are at the cross, because they are more in conformity with Him. She affirms that we cannot please Jesus if we do not love his Mother that he loved so much and on whom he bestowed his graces. (574.3). Adele is committed to make Mary known, loved, honored and served, sure that this leads us to love and serve Jesus (334.10).

"There is a certain talisman in the Sodality which has the property of uniting hearts; this talisman is the love for Jesus and Mary" (324.4). Although Adèle's love continues to grow throughout her life, she feels she still does not do enough for Mary. She keeps herself motivated and also asks her sisters to do everything **"in the Name of Mary"** (688.3). Having entrusted everything to Mary, people and possessions, we must act as sent by Her, conscious of being at His service, and, like Her, always seeking to fulfill the will of God. Following her, "our polaris (north star)", we will arrive at the happy end to which we aspire: Our meeting the Beloved! (15.3)

REFLECTION OF POPE FRANCIS ABOUT MARY

(Marian Day on the occasion of the Year of Faith,
homily of Octobre 13th, 2013)



(*Madonna della seggiola* by Raphael)

The first thing Mary teaches us, says the Holy Father, is to trust in God without understanding everything. The astonishment, the wonder that Mary feels when she finds out that she is chosen to be "the Mother of her Creator", is not a reason to not put our trust completely to Jesus. In her "yes", in her welcome of the Word of God there is an example for all of us: "God constantly surprises us, he bursts our categories, he wreaks havoc with our plans. And he tells us: Trust me, do not be afraid, let yourself be surprised, leave yourself behind and follow me!".

But following Christ must be continual. *God demands that we be faithful in following him.* Mary did not only say the first yes, she said yes many times throughout her life, up to the ultimate and most difficult moment of the Cross. All, without ever losing trust in God. This trust she expresses in her first yes, remains a constant presence throughout her life. This is Mary's second lesson: **to be faithful all the time.** « It is the difficulty of remaining steadfast, faithful to decisions we have made and to commitments we have made. Often it is easy enough to say "yes",

but then we fail to repeat this “yes” each and every day. We fail to be faithful.”

The third lesson concludes Pope Francis is that of giving thanks. Soon after her first "yes", Mary's words are “My soul magnifies the Lord”. Thus, all of us must give thanks to God constantly for His faithfulness without fail, even when we are not faithful to God, who is merciful and always forgives our faults. Give thanks to God, not only for ourselves, but also we must give thanks for others, because by accepting Jesus coming to live in us, in our hearts, we become God's instruments.



“Visitation” by Jacopo Pontorno

**“MY SOUL MAGNIFIES
THE LORD”, IN OTHER
WORDS, A SONG OF
PRAISE AND
THANKSGIVING TO
GOD NOT ONLY FOR
WHAT HE DID FOR HER,
BUT FOR WHAT HE HAD
DONE THROUGHOUT
THE HISTORY OF
SALVATION .”**

(POPE FRANCIS)

Prayer to the Virgin Mary (by Pope Francis)

Blessed Virgin Mary,
with renewed gratitude for your motherly presence
we join with the voices of all generations that call you blessed.
We celebrate in you the great works of God,
who never tires of lowering himself in mercy over humanity,
afflicted by evil and wounded by sin,
to heal and to save it.

Accept with the benevolence of a Mother
this act of entrustment that we make in faith today.
We are certain that each one of us is precious in your eyes
and that nothing in our hearts has estranged you.

May we allow your sweet gaze
and the perpetual warmth of your smile to reach us.

Guard our life with your embrace:
bless and strengthen every desire for good;
give new life and nourishment to faith;
sustain and enlighten hope;
awaken and animate charity;
guide us all on the path to holiness.

Teach us your own special love for the little ones and the poor,
for the excluded and the suffering,
for sinners and the wounded of heart:
gather all people under your protection
and give us all to your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus. Amen.



The Word of God speaks to us...

(Lk 1, 38)

Mary said, "I am the servant of the Lord". And the angel departed

(Jn 2, 5)

His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

(Lk 1, 46-55)

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 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 powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

(Jn 19, 26-27)

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home

(Acts 1, 14)

All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

**MARY TREASURED
ALL THESE WORDS
AND PONDERED
THEM IN HER HEART**
(Lk 2, 19)

(Lk 2, 19)

"Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart."



(Coming of the Holy Spirit by Fra Angelico)

SUGGESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND PRAYER

You are invited to reflect on these questions and texts individually. Then take some time as a community to pray together using some of the readings and prayers. Also share your individual insights in a community/group setting.

1. What virtue or qualities, among those contemplated in Mary, would you like to live more fully?
2. How do you experience the presence of Mary in your life and in your ministry and mission?
3. What most calls and challenges you personally? What are we called to live out more as a community? Share with Mary your hopes, desires and concerns.
4. What quality of Mary attracts you the most and nudges you to develop further in your daily life?



Oración final

Mother of tenderness

Mary, thank you for your presence,
your being here.
Your commitment is full of tenderness,
your gaze ever maternal,
all the worry and concerns
that you lived through for your Son Jesus.
Now you turn towards me, day and night.
The generations pass,
your faithful tenderness is renewed for everyone.

(Translated from Ernesto Olivero)

