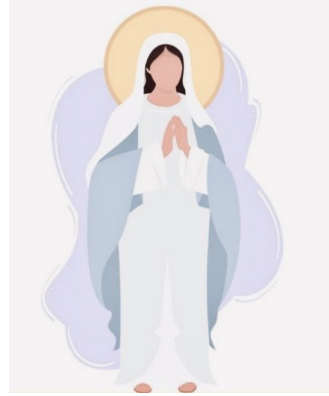


MARIAN SPIRITUALITY

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic

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The blessed Mary's birthday is on September 8th. When we celebrate the birth of Mama Mary, we also reflect on the birth of Jesus. Her whole life is defined by her Son. Hence, our devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary must lead to Jesus. Jesus was the first to honor her. If we love Jesus, we should also love Mama Mary.

1. **The Gospel narrates the story of Mary, but the gospel is about the birth of Jesus (Mt. 1:18-25).**

Mary was betrothed to Joseph but before they lived together, Mary was found with a child. Joseph intended to divorce Mary but the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph and said: "Joseph do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. *"Behold, the virgin shall bear a son, and they shall name him "Emmanuel" which means "God is with us"* (Matt 1:18-25).

2. **Mary is filled with grace.** The Lord is with Mary. She said: "I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me as you say" (Lk1:38).

3. **The Love of the Blessed Mother**

3.1. The first miracle happened in a celebration of love - at the wedding in Cana (Jn. 2:1-11). She ordered the servants at the wedding in Cana: "Do whatever He tells you" (Jn.2:5). She reminds us to always follow Jesus. "Totus Tuus Maria"- totally yours, to give ourselves entirely to Jesus through Mary (Pope John Paul II).

3.2. She is already working on a solution even before we know there's a problem. The couple did not know they were running out of wine, which is a symbol of joy and celebration. Thus, they were running out of reasons to celebrate. A mother feels what is going on in the hearts of her children.

3.3. Mary is always strong because her strength is her Son; Jesus is with her.

4. **The Rosary is the school of Mary.**

4.1. The subject all about Jesus. When we pray the "Hail Mary" it is all about her Son - "Blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus."

4.2. Every time we pray, we are encouraged to reflect on the life of Jesus through the joyful, sorrowful, glorious, luminous mysteries.

4.3. It was clear to Mary that her life was devoted to Jesus. His mission was also her mission. She did not abandon him when he suffered at the cross.

4.4. Her assumption to heaven was through the merit of Jesus' death, suffering and resurrection.

Conclusion:

Mama Mary celebrates her faithfulness and uses her birthday to bring us closer to Jesus. Let us also accompany others to Jesus. Let us count our blessings. Like Mary, we can say, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." The blessed mother is not just a visitor; she is a sacred member of our family. She will bring our offerings and problems to her Son.

Reflection:

1. How do you honor Mama Mary when you pray the Rosary? How do we respond to Mary's command; "Do whatever He tells you"?
2. Are you running out of reasons to celebrate?

SCRIBES Ministry:

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