

# Reflections

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## Blessed Mary and the Love for God the Father

For modern man, the relationship with authority is very difficult, be it with the father of the family, the boss, the leader, the priest or even God. Our experiences with authority have been, often, difficult and frustrating. One of the greatest problems in the country/nation is the absence or weakness of its paternal figures.

This problem has led many Christians to unconsciously distort the Gospel of Christ. They forget that the center of the life and message of Jesus is his Father. The aim of the Christian is not Christ. Jesus is only “the way” which leads to the Father. The love of God the Father which welcomes us and makes us his children, constitutes the center of the Gospel’s message.

Jesus can do nothing else but proclaim his Father. Because HE is all his richness, that which fills his childlike heart. The Father is the source of his being and Life, the basis for his joy and peace. But it is also the Father who sends him forth, requires him to grow in surrender, who asks him to carry the Cross. He is neither a soft grandfather nor an unyielding dictator. He is completely Father: tender and strong at the same time. Christ is the visible image of the Father. HE reflects HIM through his face and his entire person, especially in his attitude as Good Shepherd.

Mary was especially qualified to understand this aspect of the mystery of Jesus. Because as his Mother, she felt she was sharing with the Father the beautiful task of taking care of Him. Therefore, she was actively interested in all which Jesus said about HIM. And thus she was converting HIM also into the great YOU of her life.

Therefore, Mary has a special charism to lead us to the Father, she knows how to open up to us his heart. In all families, it is the mother who helps the children know their father. The same happens in God’s Family: Mary gives us a special childlike sensibility. And this allows us to discover the true face of the Father as it is reflected radiantly in Jesus the Good Shepherd.

At the same time, the Blessed Virgin is capable of helping us overcome modern man’s difficulties when facing authority and paternity. Because Mary is capable of educating authorities and paternal personalities according to the model of Jesus the Good Shepherd.

She helps us understand that authority is not, first of all, power of ordering about, but of service to life. That her task is to help those who have been entrusted to her mature and grow. And authority helps to grow according to the measure in which it stimulates and supports the initiatives of others: with counsel, example, and personal concern. For this, it is fundamental to know how to delegate and share responsibilities: because man grows when he participates.

Mary, the “Mother of the living,” is capable of restoring the original sense of authority and paternity as a revitalizing power. Thus she makes kind for us anew the figure of God the Father, she helps us rediscover the joy of being his loving children and she makes it possible that we are brothers and sisters once again.

In this way, Mary makes possible the communion of love which Jesus came to establish among mankind and with the Heavenly Father. The Virgin wants to help us become children and brothers and sisters – more and more – and to rediscover God the Father as a model of authority which liberates, gives life, unifies and helps us grow.

Dear brothers and sisters, therefore, let us ask Mary to help us discover the joy of being children of the Father in Christ, to depend on his generous and strong love. And that in his paternal heart we be able to recognize all men as our brothers. Let us also ask her for all our fathers and authority figures – in the home, at work, in the country/nation and in the Church – so that the Virgin helps them to give their paternal service according to the spirit and model of God our Father.

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