

Reflections

Father Nicolás Schwizer

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To Be A Mother

Transparecy of the Holy Spirit

Woman is naturally associated with the Holy Spirit. Historically, when the Holy Spirit wanted to dwell among mankind, it was done in the heart of a woman. Mary, since the Annunciation, becomes not only a mother, but also becomes a dwelling of and a shrine of the Spirit. From that moment on, each woman and each mother will for always be a dwelling and an image of the Divine Spirit.

Mother and virgin

When Father explains the essence of woman..... what is eternal in her..... he uses different expressions. One of them says that woman is mother and virgin. That applies to all women regardless of their state of life. The married woman should also not only be mother but also virgin. Maternity and virginity are conditions for the full fertility of the feminine soul. Therefore, a true woman and mother should foster both principles.

Maternity is the GIVING of oneself: service, concern for life, personal surrender, denying oneself and loving, the personal encounter.

Virginity, on the other hand, is the RESERVATION of oneself: purity, attentiveness, the inner self, receptiveness, childlikeness and openness before God.

The element which is being lost today is virginity, that is, the inner self, the dependence and childlikeness toward God, the loss of what is great and noble. But the loss of that virginal treasure also implies the loss of the maternal gift. She who is not a daughter cannot be a mother. Maternity and virginity, both worlds must complement each other. We find the model in the Blessed Mother: She embodies not only the spirit but also the reality of being mother and virgin.

Each mother, each woman who to achieve full maturity must learn to cultivate and balance these two factors: maternity and virginity.....reservation of oneself and generous giving of oneself.....receptivity and attentiveness.

Mission before the The Father and culture

What is her mission before the Father? Father Kentenich would usually quote St. Bernard: “Man is not exalted or redeemed if not by woman.” He was not only making reference to the Blessed Mother, but also referring to the “little Mary,” the redeemed woman.

In one of his talks in Milwaukee, in that context, he explained the origin of woman: As Scripture says, when God created man he used earth. Therefore, he is an earth man. Later he gave him breath. Therefore, how does man appear? He is a union between earth and spirit.....a union between the lowest and the highest.....a union between instinct and intelligence. Then He created woman from the man’s rib. What does that mean? She is an intermediate being.....between the lowest and the highest.....between instinct and intelligence.....taken from the heart of man. Therefore, what is the greatness of woman? She is the heart of all creation. What does this teach man? That he needs a heart; that the center of man is the heart. The great mission of woman and mother is to complement man by means of her heart. But she also has to be the heart and soul of all of creation.

The eternal part of the woman is simply **her heart**.....her pure and devoted heart. Her most important contribution is to be the heart, symbol of her love and fruit of her heart. All of her work, within and outside of her home, must be directed by the heart, by love. Therefore, the masterpiece in the education of the woman and mother is the education of love.....the education of the heart.

Questions for reflection

1. As a mother, as a woman, do I feel I am a transparency of the Holy Spirit?
2. What do the words of St. Bernard tell me?
3. In which ways do I express my being heart?

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