

Reflections

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Mary, Model of Our Love and Faithfulness for the Church

If we try to penetrate the mystery of the Church, the mystery of our vocation as Christians, we can do it looking toward the image of Mary.

God has called us to be soul of the world. We will be soul of the world according to the measure in which we announce the love of God for the poor, for the small, for those who suffer. We will be the soul of the world according to the measure in which we demonstrate that love through deeds, through our Christian spirit of service. We will be the soul of the world today, according to the measure in which we know how to be instruments of unity and signs of hope for mankind.

The Blessed Virgin was all of that to the utmost: because She was full of grace. She is model of the Church and with Her we want to build the Church of the future.

And we ask ourselves: What seed does the Virgin want to leave in our hearts so that it may grow, develop and be fruitful? It seems to me that the permanent fruits should be: a more profound love and a more authentic faithfulness to the Church.

The Second Vatican Council defined the Church of our times as People of God, as his great Family. We are all Church. We all build Church. And how are we going to build something we do not love?

The Church is our Family. To love her means to feel fully within this family, and not in the margin, nor like a simple spectator looking at her from the outside. To love her means to feel committed with this family and with each one of its members, that is, also with the humble, those who are annoyed, those who are unpleasant. To love her also means to feel responsible for this family and its development.

We want to love Her in spite of the defects of her members and her ministers. Because to love Her is to also suffer with her. We should be pained by the problems which the Church has, the divisions in the Church, the crisis of authority, the lack of obedience and the lack of respect for the Holy Father, for the Bishops and the other ministers.

To suffer with the Church, to preserve the love for Her, also in difficult moments, this is faithfulness. Because faithfulness to the Church, the family of God, means to be with her in good times and in bad, especially in the bad. True faithfulness is proven faithfulness, upright, that which endures the torments of life.

Faithfulness to the Church goes beyond death. We are her members from baptism until eternity. It is the same faithfulness which spouses promise to each other in the sacrament of matrimony: to be faithful in both prosperity and in adversity, in health as in illness until parted by death.

The Blessed Virgin is our Model of love and faithfulness to the Church. She is the most eminent member of the Church, the one fully redeemed. But more than that, Mary is also the Mother of the Church. Pope Paul VI himself, upon finalizing the Second Vatican Council, solemnly proclaims Her under this title.

With this, merely repeated is the testament of Christ on the Cross; when He gives us to his Mother saying to the apostle John: “Behold your Mother,” and to Mary: “Woman, behold your son.” Since previously She has given herself totally to her Son, Jesus Christ, in the same way since that moment, She surrenders all her love and faithfulness to her children in the great family of the Church. Immediately She begins to act as Mother of the apostles, gathering them in the Cenacle and awaiting with them the Holy Spirit.

Her mission as Mother of the Church becomes more present even moreso after her death. Now She can fulfill it in all its universality and profundity. She is no longer limited by time or space: She can be Mother fully for all her own, and give each one of them the love, help, and protection they need.

Throughout all of history, the Church has experienced this love and this faithfulness of Mary and, therefore, has so much confidence, respect and love for her Mother.

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