



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025

MAY, MOTHER'S DAY, AND MARY

May 8, 2012 | Bishop's Column: In Truth and Charity
Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

WWW.TODAYSCATHOLIC.ORG

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THE EDITORS OF THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER'S 1ST SATURDAY NEWSLETTER ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING THE CONSISTENT QUALITY AND ACCURACY OF THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER'S 1ST SATURDAY NEWSLETTER AND AS SUCH RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REJECT OR EDIT THE CONTENT OF ALL SUBMISSIONS FOR PUBLICATION. EDITING MAY INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, CHANGES TO GRAMMAR, SYNTAX AND STYLES, REMOVAL OF OFFENSIVE CONTENT AND REMOVAL OF PERSONAL NON-PUBLIC INFORMATION. SUBMISSION OF YOUR ARTICLE SIGNIFIES YOUR AGREEMENT TO THE TERMS AFOREMENTIONED.

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AN ARTIST'S DEPICTION OF A SCENE FROM THE PENTECOST APPEARS IN THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF ST. LOUIS. THE FEAST MARKS THE OCCASION OF THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT UPON THE APOSTLES 50 DAYS AFTER CHRIST'S RESURRECTION. PENTECOST IS GREEK FOR THE 50TH DAY. IT IS ALSO REFERRED TO AS THE BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH BECAUSE, FROM THAT POINT ON, THE APOSTLES CARRIED FORTH THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST TO THE WORLD.

MAY IS A MONTH TRADITIONALLY DEDICATED TO HONORING THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY. IN OUR CHURCHES AND HOMES, WE CELEBRATE MAY AS A "MARIAN MONTH," WITH MAY PROCESSIONS, MAY CROWNING, AND OTHER POPULAR DEVOTIONS IN HONOR OF THE MOTHER OF GOD. THIS MARIAN MONTH FALLS DURING THE LITURGICAL SEASON OF EASTER. WE THUS PARTICULARLY EMPHASIZE OUR BLESSED MOTHER'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PASCHAL MYSTERY AND HER PRESENCE WITH THE CHURCH IN PREPARATION FOR PENTECOST, AS SHE PRAYED WITH THE DISCIPLES IN THE UPPER ROOM WHILE THEY AWAITED THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.



May is the Month of Mary

THERE ARE MANY DEVOTIONS THAT THE CHURCH RECOMMENDS FOR HONORING OUR LADY DURING HER MONTH. DURING THE EASTER SEASON, WE ADDRESS THE REGINA COELI ANTIPHON TO HER AS WE CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION OF HER SON. OF COURSE, THE ROSARY IS ONE OF THE MOST EXCELLENT MARIAN PRAYERS AND ESPECIALLY RECOMMENDED IN THE MONTH OF MAY. LITANIES OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (E.G. THE LITANY OF LORETO) ARE ALSO SPECIAL INVOCATIONS FOR OUR LADY'S INTERCESSION UNDER HER VARIOUS BEAUTIFUL TITLES.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

FEASTS FOR MAY

THE FEASTS ON THE GENERAL ROMAN CALENDAR CELEBRATED DURING THE MONTH OF MAY ARE:

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| 1 JOSEPH THE WORKER, OPT. MEM. | 26 PHILIP NERI; MINOR ROGATION DAY, MEMORIAL |
| 2 ATHANASIUS, MEMORIAL | 27 AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY; MINOR ROGATION DAY, OPT. MEM. |
| 3 PHILIP AND JAMES, APOSTLES, FEAST | 29 POPE PAUL VI, OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OR SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION, |
| 4 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER, SUNDAY | 31 VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, FEAST |
| 10 DAMIEN DE VEUSTER (USA); JOHN OF AVILA, OPT. MEM. | |
| 11 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY), SUNDAY | |
| 12 NEREUS AND ACHILLEUS; PANCRAS, MARTYRS, OPT. MEM. | |
| 13 OUR LADY OF FATIMA, OPT. MEM. | |
| 14 MATTHIAS, APOSTLE, FEAST | |
| 15 ISIDORE THE FARMER (USA), OPT. MEM. | |
| 18 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, SUNDAY | |
| 20 BERNARDINE OF SIENA, OPT. MEM. | |
| 21 CHRISTOPHER MAGALLANES & COMPANIONS, OPT. MEM. | |
| 22 RITA OF CASCIA, OPT. MEM. | |
| 25 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, SUNDAY | |

THE FEASTS OF ST. JOHN I (MAY 18), AND ST. BEDE, ST. GREGORY VII AND ST. MARY MAGDALENE DE PAZZI (MAY 25), ARE SUPERSEDED BY THE SUNDAY LITURGY. THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION (MAY 29) IS CELEBRATED ON JUNE 1 (SUNDAY) IN MOST DIOCESES IN THE UNITED STATES. □

OUR CENACLE CORNER

SEEKING A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD
THROUGH MEDITATION OF PASSAGES FROM HOLY SCRIPTURES

The Resurrection

GOD TOUCHED ME

Publish his glorious deeds among the nations.

Tell everyone about the amazing things he does. — 1 Chronicles 16:24

A POTTER'S CLAY

FROM THE BOOK: MY LIFE'S JOURNEY
A COLLECTION OF POEMS

BY CONNIE DE LA ROSA, A DEVOTEE

But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Isaiah 64:8

I AM THE CLAY, AND YOU, MY GOD IS THE POTTER
YOU'RE CONSTANTLY AT WORK WITH ME
FORMING ME, BREAKING ME, RESHAPING ME,
FASHIONING ME INTO SOMETHING DELICATELY
BEAUTIFUL!

LIKE A POTTER,
YOU MOLD ME LIKE CLAY TO THE VESSEL OF YOUR LIKING
YOUR NIMBLE FINGERS GENTLY, LOVINGLY TOUCHING ME
AT TIMES, YOU HAD TO BREAK ME AND MOLD ME ANEW
TAKING YOUR TIME AS YOU DID SO
UNTIL FINALLY, YOU SMILED, FOR LO AND BEHOLD
A DELICATE, LOVELY VESSEL IS FORMED!

SATISFIED, YOU PUT ME ON A SHELF ALONG WITH THE
REST

VISITING ME, POLISHING ME DAILY
LETTING SOME TIME PASS...

UNTIL FINALLY, YOU WERE READY FOR ME
YOU TOOK ME DOWN FROM THE SHELF.
SMILED, LOOKED AT ME ONE LAST TIME AND SAID,
"NOW IS THE TIME. I HAVE WORK FOR TO DO:
GO AND DO IT WELL."

LORD, WITH THE PASSING OF TIME, YOU'VE MADE ME
PERFECT
BUT I NEED YOU TO USE MY BROKENNESS
TO TRANSFORM ME, TO MOLD ME, TO CHANGE ME
SO THAT YOU COULD USE ME WELL IN DOING
WHAT YOU'VE INTENDED ME TO DO.

LET MY PAIN AND DISCOMFORTS ALIGN WITH YOUR
SUFFERINGS
THAT I, TOO, MAY GET TO SHARE IN YOUR SUFFERINGS
MAKING ME A PULSATING LIVING PART OF YOU
BREATHING, FEELING, SEEING THE WORLD AND YOUR
PEOPLE
AS YOU SEE THEM - IN ME!

AS I SET OUT IN MY JOURNEY,
I ASK YOU TO PLEASE BE WITH ME, STAY WITH ME, BLESS
ME
HARD AS IT MIGHT TURN OUT TO BE FOR ME,
I SAY "YES" TO YOU, MY LORD AND MY GOD
LET ME LIVE MY LIFE AS IT SHOULD BE LIVED
BREATHING AND INVOKING GOD'S NAME FOREVER!

JUNE 14, 2024
LAS VEGAS, NV

NOTE: THIS POEM, "A POTTER'S CLAY," WAS ALSO
CHOSEN TO BE IN AN ANTHOLOGY TO BE PUBLISHED BY
PUBLIC PUBLISHING. ☐

MARY, MOTHER'S DAY AND MARY

IN THE MONTH OF MAY, THE CHURCH CALLS US TO OPEN OUR HEARTS IN A SPECIAL WAY TO MARY. HER PRESENCE IN OUR LIVES IS A MOTHERLY PRESENCE. WE CALL HER OUR BLESSED MOTHER. INDEED, FROM THE CROSS, JESUS GAVE HER TO US AS OUR MOTHER AND ENTRUSTED US TO HER AS HER CHILDREN. JESUS' WORDS TO JOHN, THE BELOVED DISCIPLE, WERE ALSO ADDRESSED TO ALL OF US: BEHOLD YOUR MOTHER! FROM THE CROSS, JESUS GAVE US THE BEAUTIFUL GIFT OF HIS MOTHER TO BE OUR MOTHER TOO. HE MADE HIS MOTHER THE MOTHER OF ALL THE MEMBERS OF HIS MYSTICAL BODY, THE CHURCH. JESUS INVITES US TO ACCEPT MARY AS OUR MOTHER AND TO RESPOND TO HER MOTHERLY LOVE AS TRUE CHILDREN.

CATHOLIC DEVOTION TO MARY IS, THEREFORE, BASED ON THE WILL OF CHRIST. BLESSED JOHN PAUL II EXPLAINED THAT "THE WORDS, BEHOLD YOUR MOTHER!, EXPRESS JESUS' INTENTION TO INSPIRE IN HIS DISCIPLES AN ATTITUDE OF LOVE FOR AND TRUST IN MARY, LEADING THEM TO RECOGNIZE HER AS THEIR MOTHER, THE MOTHER OF EVERY BELIEVER. AT THE SCHOOL OF THE VIRGIN, THE DISCIPLES LEARN TO KNOW THE LORD DEEPLY, AS JOHN DID, AND TO HAVE AN INTIMATE AND LASTING RELATIONSHIP OF LOVE WITH HIM. THEY ALSO DISCOVER THE JOY OF ENTRUSTING THEMSELVES TO THE MOTHER'S MATERNAL LOVE, LIVING LIKE AFFECTIONATE AND DOCILE CHILDREN."

MARY ALWAYS LEADS US TO JESUS, HER SON. WHEN WE GO TO HER, WE ALWAYS MEET JESUS, OUR SAVIOR. SHE HELPS US FOLLOW HER SON MORE FAITHFULLY. MAY WE ALL, LIKE SAINT JOHN, TAKE MARY INTO OUR HOME AND MAKE ROOM FOR HER IN OUR DAILY LIVES. GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO HER THE ROLE OF MATERNAL

INTERCESSION FOR US. SHE IS OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP: SHE SEES OUR NEEDS AND IS READY TO COME TO OUR AID. SHE IS ESPECIALLY CLOSE TO THOSE WHO ARE SUFFERING. THE MOST ANCIENT MARIAN PRAYER EXPRESSES MARY'S ROLE AS OUR ADVOCATE: WE FLY TO THY PATRONAGE, O HOLY MOTHER OF GOD; DESPISE NOT OUR PETITIONS IN OUR NECESSITIES BUT DELIVER US ALWAYS FROM ALL DANGERS, O GLORIOUS AND BLESSED VIRGIN." MARY PRESENTS OUR NEEDS TO HER SON AND INTERCEDES CONTINUALLY ON OUR BEHALF.

IT IS VERY FITTING THAT WE CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY



DURING THE MARIAN MONTH. AS WE HONOR THE MOTHER OF GOD, OUR SPIRITUAL MOTHER, WE ALSO HONOR OUR EARTHLY MOTHERS. ON MOTHER'S DAY, WE REMEMBER WITH GRATITUDE AND AFFECTION OUR MOTHERS, NOT ONLY THROUGH MATERIAL GIFTS, FLOWERS, OR CARDS, BUT ALSO, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, BY OUR PRAYERS FOR THEM. WE THANK GOD FOR THE GIFT OF OUR MOTHERS WHO CONCEIVED AND GAVE BIRTH TO US, WHO CARED FOR US, PROTECTED US,

TAUGHT US, AND LOVED US. MANY PASSED ON THE PRECIOUS GIFT OF FAITH TO US. WE REMEMBER ALL OUR MOTHERS, LIVING AND DECEASED. WE THANK THEM FOR THEIR GENEROSITY AND SELF-GIVING LOVE.

MARY IS A MODEL FOR ALL MOTHERS. POPE BENEDICT XVI SAID THAT "MARY IS THE IMAGE AND MODEL OF ALL MOTHERS, OF THEIR GREAT MISSION TO BE GUARDIANS OF LIFE, OF THEIR MISSION TO BE TEACHERS OF THE ART OF LIVING AND OF THE ART OF LOVING."

MARY IS A MODEL FOR ALL OF US ON OUR EARTHLY PILGRIMAGE. SHE WHO WAS "FULL OF GRACE" WAS "ALL HOLY." SHE REPRESENTS THE PARADIGM OF THE AUTHENTIC HOLINESS THAT IS ACHIEVED THROUGH UNION WITH CHRIST. SHE IS OUR MODEL OF FAITH WHO

ADHERED TO GOD'S WORD THROUGHOUT HER LIFE. SHE IS OUR MODEL OF HOPE WHO STOOD FIRM AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS. SHE IS OUR MODEL OF CHARITY WHO WENT IN HASTE TO VISIT AND HELP HER COUSIN ELIZABETH. HER MATERNAL LOVE FOR HER SON EXTENDS TO US, HER SPIRITUAL CHILDREN. SHE IS OUR SURE GUIDE TO GOSPEL PERFECTION.

ON MOTHER'S DAY, LET US PRAY FOR ALL OUR MOTHERS. AND LET US REMEMBER THAT WE HAVE A MOTHER IN HEAVEN, THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY. WE CONTINUE TO REJOICE WITH HER DURING THIS EASTER SEASON. MAY THE MOTHER GIVEN TO US BY CHRIST ON THE CROSS BE EVER AT OUR SIDE! □



“I am your Mother Mary.

*Now that blessings have come to America, the
evil one is waiting to attack again .*

*Pray, pray, pray my children and invoke the
passion of my son, Jesus, especially in the coming
days .*

*Death will be seen in the distance of a person
important to the Church. Prepare for movements
of earth. Prepare, my children.”*

Mary, Your Lady of the Rosary and Good Health

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SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

THE RESURRECTION

BY VICTOR H. ARANETA

AS WE CONTEMPLATE ON THE CRUCIFIXION OF OUR LORD, THE WHOLE CHRISTENDOM IS AWAITING THE MESSIAH WHO WILL CONQUER DEATH ON THE THIRD DAY.



EASTER WILL BE THE EPITOME OF THE DEFEAT OF SATAN, THE DECEIVER. TOGETHER MAY WE HAVE OUR OWN EPIPHANY THAT THE LORD OF LORDS BE IN OUR HEARTS. NO PROPHETS WILL EQUAL THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION AND THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL HAVE THE GIFT OF LIFE AND THE TRUTH.

LET'S ALL BE REMINDED THAT THE POWER OF LIFE WILL ALWAYS PREVAIL OVER DEATH, THE RESULT OF SATAN'S DECEPTION OF OUR FIRST PARENTS.

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST HAS RISEN!

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL! ☐

Upcoming Events

1ST FRIDAY DEVOTION DEDICATED TO THE HOLY SOULS

MAY 2, 2025

IN LAS VEGAS:
THE CENACLE HOUSE
AT 2:30 PM

IN LOS ANGELES: VIA ZOOM
AT 8:30 PM

1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION MAY CROWNING CELEBRATION

MAY 3, 2025

IN LAS VEGAS:
THE CENACLE HOUSE
AT 1:00 PM

1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION 1ST SUNDAY DEVOTION MAY CROWNING CELEBRATION

MAY 3, 2025

IN LOS ANGELES:
ST. ANNE'S CHAPEL
ST. ANNE FAMILY SERVICES
155 N. OCCIDENTAL BL.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90026
DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT 8:30 AM
MASS AT 9:30 AM

1ST SUNDAY DEVOTION

MAY 4, 2025

IN LAS VEGAS:
ST. SHARBEL CATHOLIC CHURCH
MASS AT 9:30 AM FOLLOWED BY
DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT THE CHAPEL