

Theological Reflection Mary, the Mother of God

This is my first offering dealing with spirituality and theological topics. How to begin? The Holy Trinity seems an obvious starting point since God was around even before the “Big Bang.” Jesus and the Incarnation would also fill the bill nicely as a jumping off point. But I have chosen Mary, the Mother of God, as the opening subject for this new venture.

Even though Mary in her life in Nazareth, in art, and in her many apparitions is always pointing to her Son, it also seems that Jesus, in turn points to his Mother. As the “Ark of the Covenant” (a title from the Litany of Loreto) she bore him in her womb and has carried Him ever since. She brings Him to us in every apparition. He sends her hundreds of times to earth with messages and warnings from heaven. He points to her and wants us to listen to her direct and simple pleas. It is for this reason that we begin with Mary because the recent messages for our times have an urgency about them. They are wrapped in simplicity. These warnings have not been heeded so our patient God sends Mary time and again.

Just as surely as the miracle of the sun came from God’s action at Fatima, so today his allowing floods of unprecedented duration and violence, tsunamis that wipe away villages and towns, volcanoes and an increase in earthquake activity are all warnings that His earth is “out of kilter.” Even if we don’t have eyes to see, we can read and believe what Pope John Paul II said about the message of Fatima being, “...more urgent and important in our day than it was in 1917.”

We are to pray the Rosary for peace, the Fatima message. At Medjugorje Mary came as Queen of Peace. Not only does she hold the Rosary but hands it to each of us as the means to obtain God’s peace. It is all very simple and direct.

Our world is engaged in a massive and pervasive struggle between good and evil. This struggle is the backdrop of our entire history of the human race. Here is an often quoted passage (found on page 218 of Father Andrew Apostoli’s book, Fatima For Today) from Pope John Paul II, “We are today before the greatest combat that mankind has ever seen. I do not believe that the Christian community has completely understood it. We are today

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before the final struggle between the Church and the anti-Church between the Gospel and the anti-Gospel.”

This is a serious reflection of a saintly Pope not given to exaggeration. Should we just ignore this and the message of so many of the Marian apparitions? These are the tools, the weapons for battle – prayer, the Rosary, fasting and the first Saturday devotion. To date nothing else has saved this world from sinking deeper into secularism, sinfulness and despair.

God united himself to the world through taking on a body. He made and loved this world and sent His Son to save it. He continues saving it and by sending His Mother as the most pre-eminent messenger He gives His all. Pay attention. Trust the messages. Respond.

Let us heed His message born out of love for each of us. Pray the Rosary for peace, to avert disaster and judgment, and to beg that all men might be saved.

Mary, Queen of Peace...pray for us.

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