

Mary, Mother of Christians

*Woman, here is your son.
Here is your mother.*

Only Mary could have made of the apostles of Jesus, before and after Pentecost, persons of one heart and one soul.

Her own Son explicitly wanted to extend the motherhood of his Mother - and to extend it in a way easily accessible to all souls and hearts - by giving her, from the height of the cross, his beloved disciple as a son. (Saint John Paul II)

Office of the day

Word of God – Jn 19: 25-27

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.



Refrain or silence

Reflection

The Mother, who was close to the cross, accepted her Son's testament of love and welcomed all people, personified by the beloved disciple, as the children who must be reborn to the divine life, thus becoming the tender mother of the Church that Christ engendered on the cross, when he gave up his Spirit. In turn, in the beloved disciple, Christ chooses all the disciples as vicars of his love for his Mother, entrusting her to them so that they may welcome her with filial affection.

The members united to Christ by faith and baptism are one Body. If it is not possible to separate the Head from the Body, neither is it possible to separate Mary's divine motherhood from her spiritual motherhood to the Body of her Son Jesus, the Church. (Fr Rivero, o.p.)

For many Christians, this journey of fraternity also has a Mother, whose name is Mary. Having received this universal motherhood at the foot of the cross, she cares not only for Jesus but also for "the rest of her children". In the power of the risen Lord, she wants to give birth to a new world, where all of us are brothers and sisters, where there is room for all those whom our societies discard, where justice and peace are resplendent. (Fratelli Tutti, 278)

The close connection between Mary, the Church and each member of the faithful, based on the fact that each in his or her own way brings forth Christ, has been beautifully expressed by

Blessed Isaac of Stella: "In the inspired Scriptures, what is said in a universal sense of the virgin mother, the Church, is understood in an individual sense of the Virgin Mary... In a way, every Christian is also believed to be a bride of God's word, a mother of Christ, his daughter and sister, at once virginal and fruitful... Christ dwelt for nine months in the tabernacle of Mary's womb. He dwells until the end of the ages in the tabernacle of the Church's faith. He will dwell forever in the knowledge and love of each faithful soul". (The Joy of the Gospel, 285)

Saint Marie Rivier

Live in such a way that your hearts belong entirely to him and that he possesses them unconditionally so that he may say to each one of you: "I am at home here; this is my dwelling, my house and my temple; I do as I please in this heart; I take delight in being here, and I reign as Master." (S.W. p. 21)

Rule of Life

While we await the perfect and definitive community, we contemplate Mary, Mother of the Church. All her life, she remained in intimate communion with her people, cooperating in a unique manner in the work of Redemption. As our community journeys forward, it seeks refuge in her powerful mercy and remains firm in hope. C 98

Canticle

Mary is present in beginnings and re-beginnings, births and new births.

Moment of prayer

- Lord, we welcome Mary, Mother of Christians and Mother of the new humanity.
R/ We give you thanks.
- Lord, we are members of the Risen Christ, we have an eternal future.
R/ We give you thanks.
- Lord, the Holy Spirit dwells in us, he loves us and leads us according to your ways.
R/ We give you thanks.

Our Father

Final prayer

Lord our God, we welcome Mary tenderly into our lives. May she continue her maternal work as an educator of faith and teach us that for you nothing is impossible. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, **Amen.**