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(Food for thought)

Icon of Love – 150 years: A Mission of the Redemptorists



Celebrating 150 years since the Icon was handed into the care of the Redemptorists by Pope (Saint) Pius IX, in April 2016, he said to them ‘Make Her known to the world!’,- and redemptorists have been doing that ever since that day.

Why should we ‘Make Her known to the world’? Because Mary of Nazareth, the woman from that village in Palestine, consented to become the Mother of the Saviour,- ‘the Child to be born of you will be called Son of the Most High’. And Mary responded, as every disciple is invited to, ‘Let it be done to me according to your word!’ Her ‘Yes’ was wholehearted and total, for life.

Was it easy? Not at all. As her son’s life unfolded over the years, she had to walk in faith in the promises made to Her. What Paul, the Apostle, said about Her Son, applies also to Mary: she ‘was tempted in all things, but without sin.’

Mary is the greatest disciple, and is a mirror for the whole people of God, the whole church. She had a listening ear, a listening heart, listening to the Word of God, in Her Son and in Her own heart. ‘Do whatever he tells you’, she said to the servants at Cana (John 2). And then she stood by the foot of the Cross of Her Son, with all the brokenness and pain of a mother, and yet obedient to the end. Later, gathered with the twelve Apostles, and with other disciples, men and women, she was in prayer for the Promise of the Father, the Holy Spirit, and was there when the Spirit came upon that first gathering with great power. We are told in the Scriptures that John, the beloved disciple, ‘took her into his own home’.

