

## **MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD PERFECT MODEL FOR MOTHERS**

**December 31/January 1, 2023**

We celebrate another important feast which makes the Catholic Church unique. We believe that Mary is the Mother of God and She is our Mother. Many people find it difficult to believe it. At the Annunciation, Mary conceived the Trinity; the Angel said: "The Holy Spirit will descend upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you, and the child to be born will be called the Son of God" (Lk.1:35). Elizabeth was inspired by the Holy Spirit to know that Mary was the Mother of God, and she said: "Why should I be honored with the visit from the Mother of my Lord?" (Lk.1:43).

Jesus is God and He is one with the Father, He said to the Jews: "The Father and I are one" (Jn.10:30) He told Philip also, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father" (Jn.14:9b). This was when Philip asked Him to show them the Father.

St. Paul tells us that Jesus was born of a woman and under the law in order to redeem us and make us adopted sons and daughters of the Father. So, Mary has restored the image and dignity of women which was destroyed by the disobedience of Eve. The Lord has been gracious to us through Mary's yes. Through Her Son, we will receive the blessing from God.

Mary was a caring Mother who was concerned about the welfare of Her Son. She and Joseph took the child Jesus to the Temple and presented Him to the Father as the custom demanded (Lk.2:22-23). She was always eager to know the whereabouts of Her Son. She searched for Him when He got lost, (Lk.2:41-49); She and the family came looking for Him, (Lk.8:19-20); She was with Him at the wedding of Cana, and She showed Her motherly love when the wine for the wedding got finished. She appealed to Her Son to save the situation. (Jn.2:1-10); "Near the cross stood His Mother" (Jn.19:25). She suffered with Her Son, emotionally, mentally, and socially.

Mary's life should be a shining example for mothers and wives. They should learn from Her spiritual life, how She kept the Word of God and pondered over it. She teaches mothers to be steadfast and entrust everything to God. Mothers should learn from Her how to be caring and responsible.

This feast also reminds us of the role mothers play in our lives. Each one of us was born of a woman, so we have mothers. Our mothers have sacrificed their time and energy and other resources to bring us up. They experienced sleepless nights to take care of us. God has given mothers special grace to interpret the actions of their children when the children cannot express themselves. Childbirth brought them physical, psychological and emotional pain.

How did we treat our mothers, and how are we treating them? How are we paying back or refunding all that they have and continue to spend on us? Do I respect and obey my mother? Do I offer my help when needed, or because I am now old her troubles do not concern me? Am I ashamed of who my mother is, or do I cherish her? She might not have been a perfect mother and woman, but once she has brought me into the world, I owe her much gratitude and obedience. Some people don't want their friends to know who their mothers are because they are poor or have some disabilities. I was more troublesome when young, moreover, I will reach that stage one day. I should not forget that obeying and respecting my mother is a source of blessing.

Unfortunately, some women have given birth, but they are not mothers, because they do not have the motherly love that mothers should have. They care less about the welfare of their children. But today Mary invites mothers to consider how important they are to their children and how they will be blessed through their children. Mothers should teach their daughters to be good women so that they can be good wives and good mothers. Ask yourself whether you have been a good mother. Are you proud to be a mother?