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Pope Benedict XVI

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The Marian Thoughts of Pope Benedict XVI

May 1, 2005 to May 30, 2005



May 1, 2005: *Regina Caeli*

Lastly, I address my thoughts to Mary: the month of May is specially dedicated to her. Pope John Paul II taught us, with his words and even more, with his example, to contemplate Christ with Mary's eyes, especially appreciating the prayer of the Holy Rosary. With the singing of the *Regina Caeli* let us entrust to the Blessed Virgin all the needs of the Church and of humanity.

May 4, 2005: General Audience



In this month of May dedicated especially to the Mother of the Lord, I invite you, dear *young people*, to learn from Mary to love and follow Christ above all things. May Our Lady help you, dear *sick people*, to look with faith at the mystery of pain and to grasp the saving value of every cross. I entrust you, dear *newly-weds*, to the motherly protection of the Blessed Virgin, so that you will live out in your own family the atmosphere of prayer and love of the home in Nazareth.

May 8, 2005: Pope Greets Mothers on Their Day

Let us return to the Christian mystery of the Ascension. After the Lord ascended to Heaven, the disciples gathered in prayer in the Upper Room, with the Mother of Jesus (cf. Acts 1: 14), invoking together the Holy Spirit who would invest them with the power to witness to the Risen Christ (cf. Lk. 24: 49; Acts 1: 8). United to the Most Blessed Virgin, every Christian community relives in these days this unique spiritual experience in preparation for the Solemnity of Pentecost. We too turn now to Mary with the hymn of the *Regina Caeli*, imploring her protection on the Church and especially on those who dedicate themselves to the work of evangelization through the means of social communication.

May 11, 2005: Pope Points Faithful Toward Virgin of Fatima

"Day after tomorrow, the liturgical memorial will be celebrated of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Fatima. Beloved, I exhort you to turn incessantly and with confidence to the Virgin, entrusting to her each one of your needs."

May 13, 2005: Our Lady of Guadalupe Receives Papal Visit

"Holy Mary, who under the advocacy of Our Lady of Guadalupe, are invoked as mother of the men and women of the Mexican nation and of Latin America, encouraged by the love you inspire in us, we again place our lives in your maternal hands." ... "You who are present in the Vatican Gardens, reign in the hearts of all mothers of the world and in our hearts. With great hope, we come to you and trust in you."

May 15, 2005: On Priestly Ordinations and Pentecost

We commend this hope to the intercession of the Virgin Mary, whom we contemplate today in the glorious mystery of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit, who descended on her in Nazareth to have her become the mother of the Word Incarnate (cf. Luke 1:35), descended today on the nascent Church gathered around her in the cenacle (cf. Acts 1:14). With confidence, let us invoke Mary Most Holy that she may obtain a renewed effusion of the Spirit on the Church of our days.

May 18, 2005: On Psalm 113 (112)

It is easy to intuit in these last verses of Psalm 112 the prefiguration of Mary's words in the "*Magnificat*," the canticle of God's chosen one who "regards the lowliness of his handmaid." More radical than our Psalm, Mary proclaims that God "has put down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the lowly." (cf. Luke 1:48,52, Psalm 112:6-8)

May 22, 2005: *Angelus*

In expectation of going personally to Bari next Sunday for the Eucharistic Celebration, I am already spiritually united with this important ecclesial event. We invoke together the intercession of the Virgin Mary, so that days of such intense prayer and adoration of the Eucharistic Christ enkindle in the Church in Italy a renewed ardor of

faith, hope and charity.

To Mary I would like also to entrust all children, adolescents and youth who are in this period of time making their first Communion or receiving the sacrament of Confirmation.

With this intention we recite now the *Angelus*, reliving with Mary the mystery of the Annunciation.

May 30, 2005

"In the special Year of the Eucharist through which we are currently living," the Pope said, "Mary helps us especially to discover" this great Sacrament. In today's feast we recall the visit by the Virgin to her cousin St. Elizabeth, an elderly woman "whom everyone considered sterile but who had, in fact, reached the sixth month of a pregnancy donated by God." Mary is carrying the recently-conceived Jesus in her womb, she "is a young girl, but she is not afraid because God is with her, He is within her."

The Holy Father affirmed how, "in a certain way, we can say that her journey was - and we are pleased to highlight this in the Year of the Eucharist - the first 'Eucharistic procession' of history. Living tabernacle of God-made-flesh, Mary is the Ark of the Covenant in whom the Lord has visited and redeemed His people. Jesus' presence fills her with the Holy Spirit."

After emphasizing how the Virgin's meeting with Elizabeth "finds expression in the canticle of the *Magnificat*," Benedict XVI asked: "is not this too the joy of the Church, that incessantly welcomes Jesus in the Holy Eucharist and carries Him to the world with the testimony of assiduous charity permeated by faith and hope? Yes, to welcome Christ and to take Him to others is the true joy of Christians! Dear brothers and sisters, let us carry on and imitate Mary, a deeply Eucharistic soul, and all our lives will become a *Magnificat*. Let this be the grace that, together this evening, we ask of the Most Holy Virgin at the close of the month of May."

May Closing at the Lourdes Grotto in the Vatican Gardens