The Marian Thoughts of Pope Francis

August 2013

Aug. 4 – On True Wealth – Translated conclusion of the Angelus address (August 05, 2013, Zenit.org)

Let us entrust this intention – of receiving God's love and sharing it with our brothers – to the intercession of the Virgin Mary.

Aug. 5 – Migrants and Refugees: Build a Better World – Translated extract (September 24, 2013, VIS)

I think of how even the Holy Family of Nazareth experienced initial rejection: Mary 'gave birth to her first-born son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn'. Jesus, Mary and Joseph knew what it meant to leave their own country and become migrants: threatened by Herod's lust for power, they were forced to take flight and seek refuge in Egypt. But the maternal heart of Mary and the compassionate heart of Joseph, the Protector of the Holy Family, never doubted that God would always be with them. Through their intercession, may that same firm certainty dwell in the heart of every migrant and refugee.


For us it is the expectation of Christ Himself, who will come to get us to bring us to the feast without end, as He has already done with His Mother, Mary Most Holy: He brought her to heaven with Him.

… May she [St. Clare] help us, together with the Virgin Mary, to live it also ourselves, each one according to his own vocation.

[After the Angelus]

…Let us remember that Thursday is the solemnity of Mary's Assumption. Let us think about Our Mother, who arrived in heaven with Jesus, and let us celebrate with her on that day.

Aug. 13 – Francis' Address to Soccer Delegations: "Even if you don't realize it, you are models, for good or evil, for so many people who look at you with admiration"– Translated conclusion (August 13, 2013, Zenit.org).
... I ask ... the Virgin Mary to guard you.

Aug. 13 – Pope's Letter on 200th Anniversary of Mexico City Cathedral: "A strong spiritual stimulus to assume joyfully the great task that every baptized person has today to be a disciple and missionary of Jesus Christ" – Translated conclusion (August 13, 2013, Zenit.org)

I entrust all these good desires to the maternal protection of Our Lady of Guadalupe, our Heavenly Mother. May she be for the whole Archdiocese of Mexico the compass and star that leads to Christ, fruit of her womb. May she guard with her protection and maintain faithful in the path of sanctity all the priests, men and women religious, seminarians and faithful of that Archdiocesan community.


That, like our Mother, you may come out of yourselves to adore as well as to announce. ... May ... the Holy Virgin care for you.


At the end of its Constitution on the Church, the Second Vatican Council left us a very beautiful meditation on Mary Most Holy. Let me just recall the words referring to the mystery we celebrate today: "the immaculate Virgin preserved free from all stain of original sin, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, when her earthly life was over, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things" (no. 59). Then towards the end, there is: "the Mother of Jesus in the glory which she possesses in body and soul in heaven is the image and the beginning of the church as it is to be perfected in the world to come. Likewise, she shines forth on earth, until the day of the Lord shall come" (no. 68). In the light of this most beautiful image of our Mother, we are able to see the message of the biblical readings that we have just heard. We can focus on three key words: struggle, resurrection, hope.

For more on what Pope Francis said about Mary: Pope's Homily on the Solemnity of the Assumption


At the conclusion of this Celebration we turn to the Virgin Mary with the prayer of the Angelus. The path of Mary towards Heaven began with that "yes" pronounced in Nazareth, in response to the celestial Messenger who announces the will of God for her.

For more on what Pope Francis said about Mary: On the Solemnity of the Assumption


But his Mother always followed Him faithfully, keeping the gaze of her heart fixed upon Jesus, the Son of the Most High, and His mystery. And in the end, thanks to Mary's faith, Jesus's relatives will become part of the first Christian community (cf. Acts 1:14). Let us ask Mary to help us too to keep our gaze carefully fixed upon Jesus and to follow Him always, even when it costs us.

[Extract of comments after the Angelus]

Let us continue to pray for peace in Egypt. All together: Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us!


... may the Blessed Virgin care for you.
Aug. 22 – Pope Francis' Message to the Prior General of the Carmelite Order – Translated extract (September 6, 2013, Zenit.org).

In the Carmelite liturgy for the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel we contemplate the Virgin who is "next to the Cross of Christ." … "With this profession I entrust myself to the Carmelite Family to live in the service of God and in the Church, and to aspire to perfect charity with the grace of the Holy Spirit and the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary" (Rite of Profession, Carmelite Order). May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Carmel, accompany your steps and render fecund of fruits your daily journey to the Mountain of God.

Aug. 25 – On the Narrow Door That Is Christ – Translated conclusion and comments after the Angelus address (August 26, 2013, Zenit.org).

We ask the Virgin Mary, the Door of Heaven, to help us to enter the door of faith, to let her Son transform our existence as He transformed hers to bring everyone the joy of the Gospel.

[Extract of comments after the Angelus]

Let us all pray together – everyone together pray to Our Lady, Queen of Peace: Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us. Everyone: Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us.

Aug. 28 – Pope's Address to Youth from the Diocese of Piacenza – Translated conclusion (August 29, 2013, Zenit.org).

But first, all together, we will pray to Our Lady who is the Mother of beauty, the Mother of goodness and the Mother of truth, that she gives us this grace of courage because Our Lady was courageous, she had courage, this woman! She was good, good, good! Let us ask her, who is in Heaven, who is our Mother, that she give us the grace of courage to go forward and against the current. All together, as you are, we pray a Hail Mary to Our Lady.


Here, then, the restlessness of love: always seeking, without stopping, the good of the other, of a loved one, with that intensity that leads to tears. … I am reminded of the Virgin Mary who with love follows Her Son Jesus to the Cross.

Aug. 29 – Papal Message to Seoul Archbishop for Month of Martyrs: "An opportunity for pilgrims to rekindle the faith in their hearts and so commit themselves more fully to the urgent task of evangelization" – Translated conclusion (August 29, 2013, Zenit.org).

Entrusting all the pilgrims to the powerful intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, …