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Pope Benedict XVI

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The Marian Thoughts of Pope Benedict XVI

October 2, 2005 to October 30, 2005



October 2, 2005: Angelus Address

"I am near the Pope (John Paul II) and now he helps me to be near the Lord and I try to enter this atmosphere of prayer, of love for our Lord, for Our Lady and I entrust myself to his prayers. So there is a permanent dialogue and we're close to each other in a new way, in a very deep way.

The spiritual center of this hymn thus becomes a prelude to John's proclamation, "And the Word became flesh and lived among us" (John 1:14). We conclude remembering that the beginning of this second part of Psalm 131(132) has been habitually used by the Fathers of the Church to describe the Incarnation of the Word in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. As early as St. Irenaeus, referring to Isaiah's prophecy concerning the virgin giving birth, explained, "The words, 'Listen, therefore, O house of David' (Isaiah 7:13) indicate that the eternal king that God had promised to David to rise up from 'the fruit of his womb,' an expression that indicates a pregnant virgin. Therefore Scripture ... proposes and affirms that the birth of the proclaimed 'one who was to come' would come from the Virgin. Exactly as Elizabeth, full of the Holy Spirit confirmed saying to Mary, 'Blessed are you among all women and blessed is the fruit of your womb' (Luke 1:42). Thus the Holy Spirit indicates to those who want to listen that in the birth of the Virgin, in other words, of Mary, the promise made by God to David to bring forth a king from the fruit of his womb, is fulfilled" (*Contro le eresie*, 3,21,5: *Già e Non Ancora*, CCCXX, Milan 1997, p. 285). In this way, we see God's truthfulness and fidelity in the great span that goes from the ancient psalm to the incarnation of the Lord. In this Psalm, the mystery of God who lives among us appears and shines forth as he becomes one of us in the Incarnation. God's fidelity and our trust in the turns of history become a source of joy for us. ...May we, like Mary, always respond to God's covenant with joy and perseverance.

October 16, 2005: Interview on Polish Television

With confidence, let us entrust ourselves above all to the Virgin Mary, whom we will venerate next Oct. 7 with the title Virgin of the Rosary. The month of October is dedicated to the holy rosary, singular contemplative prayer with which, led by the Lord's heavenly Mother, we fix our gaze on the Redeemer's face to be conformed in his mystery of joy, light, suffering and glory.

This ancient prayer is undergoing a providential new flowering, thanks in part to the example and teaching of our beloved Pope John Paul II. I invite you to reread his apostolic letter "*Rosarium Virginis Mariae*" and to put into practice his indications at the personal, family and community level. We entrust to Mary the works of the synod: May she lead the whole Church to an ever clearer awareness of her mission at the service of the redeemer, really present in the sacrament of the Eucharist.

Benedict XVI Publishes Synod's Recommendations

Only Available in Non-official Translation

VATICAN CITY, OCT. 23, 2005 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).- In an unprecedented move, Benedict XVI published the 50 propositions presented by the Synod of Bishops on the Eucharist. The propositions, which will be the basis for the Pope's post-synodal apostolic exhortation, will only be presented in a non-official [Italian translation](#) of the Latin original, in order to preserve some confidentiality, reported the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops on Saturday.

Benedict XVI said today that the post-synodal exhortation will "portray the face of the 'Catholic' community," which finds its strength and unity in the Eucharist. ...The propositions conclude presenting Mary as "Eucharistic woman," and encourage the faithful to have "the same sentiments of Mary."

On Closing of Synod and Year of the Eucharist

"Bread Broken for the Life of the World"

VATICAN CITY, OCT. 23, 2005 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).- Here is a translation of Benedict XVI's words before and after reciting the Angelus, at the end of the Mass that closed the Synod on the Eucharist and the Year of the Eucharist. He also he canonized five saints at the Mass.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

With today's Eucharistic celebration in St. Peter's Square, the assembly of the Synod of Bishops has closed and, at the same time, the Year of the Eucharist has ended, which our beloved Pope John Paul II opened in October 2004. ...

Moreover, today, as the images exposed on the facade of the Vatican basilica show, I have had the joy of proclaiming five new saints that, at the end of the Eucharistic year, I want to point out as exemplary fruits of communion of life with Christ. They are Jozef Bilczewski, bishop of Lviv of the Latins; Gaetano Catanoso, presbyter, founder of the Congregation of the Veronican Sisters of the Holy Face; Zygmunt Gorazdowski, Polish priest, founder of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph; Alberto Hurtado

Cruchaga, Jesuit priest, Chilean; and the Capuchin religious Felice de Nicosia.

Each one of these disciples of Jesus was formed interiorly by his divine presence received, celebrated and adored in the Eucharist. Each one of them, moreover, lived with different hues a tender and filial devotion to Mary, mother of Christ. These new saints, whom we contemplate in heavenly glory, invite us to take recourse in every circumstance to the maternal protection of the virgin to make ever more progress on the path of evangelical perfection, supported by constant union with the Lord really present in the sacrament of the Eucharist.

Whoever receives Christ in the reality of this Body and Blood cannot keep this gift to himself, but is impelled to share it in courageous witness of the Gospel, in service to brothers in difficulty, in forgiveness for offenses. For some, moreover, the Eucharist is seed of a specific call to leave everything to go and proclaim Christ to those who still do not know him. Let us commend to Mary Most Holy, Eucharistic woman, the spiritual fruits of the Synod and of the Year of the Eucharist. May she watch over the path of the Church and teach us to grow in communion with the Lord Jesus to be witnesses of his love, in which is the secret of joy.

Mary-Eucharistic Woman

Pope's Homily at Close of Year of the Eucharist

October 23, 2005: "We Must Start Again From the Eucharist"

VATICAN CITY, OCT. 23, 2005 (Zenit.org).- Here is the conclusion of the homily Benedict XVI delivered in Italian, Polish, Ukrainian and Spanish during the Mass that closed the Synod on the Eucharist and the Year of the Eucharist, and in which he canonized five new saints.

Dear friends, we must start again from the Eucharist. May Mary help us, a Eucharistic woman, to be in love with it, help us to "remain" in the love of Christ, to be intimately renewed by him. Docile to the action of the Spirit and attentive to man's needs, the Church then will be a greater beacon of light, of true joy and hope, achieving fully her mission as the "sign and instrument of the unity of the whole human race" ("*Lumen Gentium*," No. 1).

Each one of them, moreover, lived with different hues a tender and filial devotion to Mary, mother of Christ. These new saints, whom we contemplate in heavenly glory, invite us to take recourse in every circumstance to the maternal protection of the virgin to make ever more progress on the path of evangelical perfection, supported by constant union with the Lord really present in the sacrament of the Eucharist. ... Let us commend to Mary Most Holy, Eucharistic woman, the spiritual fruits of the Synod and of the Year of the Eucharist. May she watch over the path of the Church and teach us to grow in communion with the Lord Jesus to be witnesses of his love, in which is the secret of joy.

Message of Synod on the Eucharist

October 23, 2005: "Living Bread for the Peace of the World"

(Zenit.org).- Here is are excerpts of the final message of the Synod of Bishops on the Eucharist, approved Friday at the concluding general assembly.

The Eucharist: Living Bread for the Peace of the World

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has again gathered us as in the Cenacle, with Mary the Mother of God and our Mother, to recall the gift par excellence of the Holy Eucharist. ...

Dearly beloved brothers and sisters, we are called, in whatever form of life we find ourselves, to live our baptismal vocation, clothing ourselves with the sentiments of Christ Jesus (see Philippians 2:2), matching one another in humility, following the example of Christ Jesus. ... Your Eucharistic witness in the service of Christ is a cry of love in the darkness of the world, an echo of the ancient Marian hymns, the Stabat Mater and of the Magnificat. May the Woman of the Eucharist par excellence, crowned with stars, and rich in love, the Virgin of the Assumption and of the Immaculate Conception, watch over you in your service of God and the poor, in the joy of Easter, for the hope of the world.

Dear friends, we must start again from the Eucharist. May Mary help us, a Eucharistic woman, to be in love with it, help us to "remain" in the love of Christ, to be intimately renewed by him. Docile to the action of the Spirit and attentive to man's needs, the Church then will be a greater beacon of light, of true joy and hope, achieving fully her mission as the "sign and instrument of the unity of the whole human race" (LG 1).

October 26, 2005: General Audience

Unite yourselves spiritually to the Crucified Christ, and abandon yourselves in the hands of Mary, constantly invoking her in the Rosary. ... I invite you to recite with devotion this prayer, so dear to Christian people.

October 30, 2005: Angelus address at the Anniversary of 5 Documents of Vatican II

I exhort you to pray with me to the Virgin Mary so that she will help all believers in Christ to always keep alive the spirit of the Second Vatican Council to contribute to establish in the world that universal fraternity that responds to the will of God on man, created in the image of God.