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Pope Francis

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The Marian Thoughts of Pope Francis

September 2013



Sept. 1 – The Pope Convoques a Day of Prayer and Penance for Peace in the Middle East –
Translated extracts of the Angelus address (September 1, 2012, VIS)

I have decided to proclaim for the whole Church on 7 September next, the vigil of the birth of Mary, Queen of Peace, a day of fasting and prayer for peace in Syria, the Middle East, and throughout the world, ...

Let us ask Mary to help us to respond to violence, to conflict and to war, with the power of dialogue, reconciliation and love. She is our mother: may she help us to find peace; all of us are her children! Help us, Mary, to overcome this most difficult moment and to dedicate ourselves each day to building in every situation an authentic culture of encounter and peace. Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us!

Sept. 1 – Francis Remembers the Blesseds Vladimir Ghika and Antonio Franco – Translated comments after the Angelus address (September 1, 2013, VIS)

Through Mary the Lord allows us to feel His tenderness. We join the faithful of Syracuse in celebrating today the sixtieth anniversary of the tears of the Virgin.

Sept. 4 – On World Youth Day in Rio: "The WYD experience reminds us of the really great news of history, the Good News"– Translated extract (September 4, 2013, Zenit.org)

..I thank Our Lady of Aparecida, who accompanied us the whole of this trip: I did the pilgrimage to the great Brazilian national shrine, and her venerated image was always present on the stage of the WYD.

I was very happy about this, because Our Lady of Aparecida is very important for the history of the Church in Brazil, but also for the whole of Latin America.

[Comments in English after the Angelus] I also thank Our Lady of Aparecida for her constant presence.

Sept. 6 – Pope Francis: 'Christ is the One Bridegroom': Reflects on Christ's Union With the Church During Morning Mass–Translated extract of homily (September 6, 2013, Zenit.org).

The Christian is fundamentally joyful. ... For this reason, at the end of the Gospel, when they bring the wine, when he speaks of wine, it makes me think of the wedding at Cana – and for this reason Jesus works His miracle – this is why Our Lady, when she realized that there was no more wine... but if there is no wine there is no party ... imagining that the wedding feast might therefore end with the drinking of tea or juice: it would not do ... it is a feast, and Our Lady asks for the miracle.

Sept. 7 – Pope's Homily at Vigil of Prayer for Peace: "Violence is not answered with violence, death is not answered with the language of death" – Translated extract (September 7, 2013, Zenit.org)

And at this point I ask myself: Is it possible to walk the path of peace? Can we get out of this spiral of sorrow and death? Can we learn once again to walk and live in the ways of peace? Invoking the help of God, under the maternal gaze of the Salus Populi Romani, Queen of Peace, I say: Yes, it is possible for everyone!

Sept. 8 –On the Choice to Be a Disciple: "Jesus does not want to delude anyone" – Translated conclusion of the Angelus address (September 8, 2013, Zenit.org).

Dear brothers and sisters, today we also remember the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, a feast especially dear to the Eastern Churches. ... Jesus is the sun. Mary is the dawn that announces His rising. Yesterday evening we held a vigil entrusting to Mary's intercession our prayer for peace in the world, especially in Syria and in the whole Middle East. Let us invoke Mary now as Queen of Peace. Queen of Peace pray for us! Queen of Peace pray for us!

Sept. 11 – On the Church as a Mother – Translated extract of the General Audience (September 11, 2013, Zenit.org).

The Church is like this: she generates us in the faith, through the work of the Holy Spirit that renders her fecund, as the Virgin Mary. Both the Church and the Virgin Mary are mothers; what is said of the Church can also be said of Our Lady and what is said of Our Lady can also be said of the Church!

... Tomorrow is the Memoria of the most Holy Name of Mary. Invoke her, dear young people, to feel the sweetness of the love of the Mother of God; pray to her, dear sick people, especially in the moment of the cross and of suffering; look at her, dear newlyweds, as the star of your conjugal journey of devotion and fidelity.

Sept. 12 – Pope Francis: contemplate the "suffering humanity" of Jesus and the sweetness of Mary –Translated extracts of the homily (September 12, 2013, news.va).

There is only one way to be able to put it [the Gospel] into practice: "to contemplate the Passion, the humanity of Jesus" and to imitate the behaviour of His Mother. It is precisely to Mary, whose Holy Name is celebrated in today's Feast, that the Pope dedicated the first part of his homily. At one time, he said, today's feast was known as the feast of the "Sweet Name of Mary." Later this title was changed — but in the prayer, he observed, this "sweetness of her name" remains:

"Even today, we stand in need of this sweetness of the Madonna, in order to understand the things that Jesus requests of us, no? Because this list [of things] is not easy to live. Love the enemy, do good, lend without hoping for anything... to those who strike you on the cheek, offer the other; to those who rip your cloak, don't refuse the tunic... But these are tough things, no? But the Madonna, in her own way, lived all these things: it is the grace of meekness, the grace of mildness."

Sept. 13 – Francis' Address to Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem – Translated conclusion (September 13, 2013, Zenit.org).

May the Virgin of Nazareth assist you in your mission to guard with love the places where Christ passed doing good and healing.

Sept. 14 –Pope Francis' Letter to Argentinian Episcopal Conference – (September 16, 2013, Zenit.org).

Father Bochero was a visit of Jesus himself to each family. He took the image of the Virgin, ... I pray to the Holy Virgin that she take care of you.

Sept. 15 –On the Mercy of God –Translated conclusion of the Angelus address (September 16, 2013, Zenit.org).

Let us now call upon the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy.

Sept. 18 – Pope's Telegram to Korean Priests Celebrating 25th Anniversary of Ordination

– Translated conclusion (September 18, 2013, Zenit.org).

Pope Francis commends all present to the maternal intercession of Mary, Mother of Priests, ...

Sept. 19 – Telegram from the Pope for Hurricane Ingrid in Mexico – Translated conclusion (September 19, 2013, VIS).

The Holy Father entrusts them to the maternal hands of Our Lady of Guadalupe ...

Sept. 20 – Francis' Address to Group of Catholic Gynecologists: "Every unborn child, condemned unjustly to being aborted, has the face of the Lord" – Translated conclusion (September 20, 2013, Zenit.org).

Never neglect to pray to the Lord and the Virgin Mary to have the strength to do your work well and to witness with courage the "gospel of life"!

Sept. 21 – Pope's Address to Plenary Assembly of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications – Translated extract (September 23, 2013, Zenit.org).

We need to show and bring Christ to others, sharing these joys and hopes, like Mary, who brought Christ to the hearts of men and women.

Sept. 22 – On Our Lady of Bonaria – Translated beginning of the Angelus address (Cagliari, September 22, 2013, Zenit.org).

Here, at the feet of Our Lady, I would like to thank each and every one of you, Above all I would like to entrust you to Mary, Our Lady of Bonaria. But at this moment I think of all the Marian shrines of Sardinia: your land has a strong connection with Mary, a connection that you express in your devotion and in your culture. Always be true sons of Mary and the Church, and show it with your life, following the example of the saints!

Sept. 22 – Pope's Homily at Mass During Visit to the Shrine of Our Lady of Bonaria – Translated extract (Cagliari, September 22, 2013, Zenit.org).

... 2. I have come among you to place myself with you at the feet of Our Lady, who gives us her Son. I know well that Mary, our Mother, is in your heart, as this shrine testifies, a sanctuary where many generations of Sardinians have come – and will continue to come! – to invoke the protection of Our Lady of Bonaria, great patroness of this island. Here you bring the joys and sufferings of this island, of its families, and of those children who live far from here, who often left with great sorrow and nostalgia to find work and a future for themselves and their loved ones. Today, all of us who gathered here would like to thank Mary for always being near us; we wish to renew our trust in her and love for her.!

For more on what Pope Francis said about Mary: [Pope's Homily at the Shrine of Our Lady of Bonaria](#)

Sept. 22 – Pope Francis' Address to Poor and Detainees – Translated extract (Cagliari, September 23, 2013, Zenit.org).

In the statue of Our Lady of Bonaria, Christ appears in Mary's arms. She, as a good Mother, points to Him, she tells us to trust in Him.

Sept. 27 – Pope Francis: A Christian is One Who Bears Humiliation with 'Patience and Joy': Reflects on the Nature of Christ in the Midst of Suffering During Daily Mass – Translated extract (September 27, 2013, Zenit.org).

And this is the temptation of spiritual well-being. We have everything: we have ... the Virgin Mary,...

Sept. 29 – On the Day of Catechists – Translated conclusion of the Angelus address (September 30, 2013, Zenit.org).

We turn now to Mary with the Angelus prayer.

Sept. 30 – A Big Heart Open to God: The exclusive interview with Pope Francis – Translated extracts (Sep. 30, 2013, AmericaMagazine.org).

...This is how it is with Mary: If you want to know who she is, you ask theologians; if you want to know how to love her, you have to ask the people. In turn, Mary loved Jesus with the heart of the people, as we read in the Magnificat.

... Mary, a woman, is more important than the bishops.

... I remember Hölderlin for that poem written for the birthday of his grandmother ..., and in that poem Hölderlin compares his grandmother to the Virgin Mary, who gave birth to Jesus, the friend of the earth who did not consider anybody a foreigner.

...I pray the Rosary.

Sept. 30 – Pope Francis' Homily at Mass for Catechists – Translated extract (September 30, 2013, Zenit.org).

This is something beautiful: to remember God, like the Virgin Mary, who sees God's wondrous works in her life but doesn't think about honour, prestige or wealth; she doesn't become self-absorbed. Instead, after receiving the message of the angel and conceiving the Son of God, what does she do? She sets out, she goes to assist her elderly kinswoman Elizabeth, who was also pregnant. And the first thing she does upon meeting Elizabeth is to recall God's work, God's fidelity, in her own life, in the history of her people, in our history: "My soul magnifies the Lord ... For he has looked on the lowliness of his servant ... His mercy is from generation to generation" (Lk 1:46, 48, 50). Mary remembers God.

This canticle of Mary also contains the remembrance of her personal history, God's history with her, her own experience of faith.