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December 2013

Pope Francis

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## The Marian Thoughts of Pope Francis

December 2013



**Dec. 1 – On the First Sunday of Advent** – – Translated conclusion of the Angelus address (December 01, 2013, Zenit.org).

The model of this spiritual attitude, of this way of being and of this journey of life, is the Virgin Mary. A simple village girl, who carries all the hope of God in her heart! In her womb the hope of God took flesh, became man, became history: Jesus Christ. Her Magnificat is the song of the People of God on its journey, and of all men and women who hope in God, in the power of his mercy. Let us be guided by her, who is a mother, a mamma, and knows how to guide us. Let us be guided by her during this time of waiting and active vigilance.

**Dec. 2 – Pope's Address to Dutch Bishops on their Ad Limina Visit** – Translated conclusion (December 03, 2013, Zenit.org)

... I entrust you, the priests, the consecrated persons and the lay faithful of your dioceses to the protection of the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, ...

**Dec. 4 – Appeal for Nuns Kidnapped from the Santa Tecla Monastery, Syria**– Translated extract (December 4, 2013, VIS)

Let us pray to the Virgin.

**Dec. 4 – On Our Resurrection from the Dead: "If we succeed in having this reality more present, we will be less exhausted by the daily routine, less prisoners of the ephemeral and more willing to walk with a merciful heart on the path of salvation"**–Translated conclusion (December 04, 2013, Zenit.org).

In these first days of Advent we turn to the Immaculate Virgin with confident prayer: She is the model of our journey to encounter Christ who comes among us."

**Dec. 6 – Pope's Address to Members of the International Theological Commission** – Translated extracts (December 06, 2013, Zenit.org).

And it [theology] is above all wisdom: at the school of the Virgin Mary, who "kept all these things, pondering them in her heart" (Luke 2:19), the theologian seeks to bring to light the unity of God's plan of love and he commits himself to show how the truths of the faith form an organic unity, articulated harmoniously.

... May the Immaculate Virgin obtain for all men and women theologians to grow in this spirit of prayer and devotion and thus, with a profound sense of humility, be true servants of the Church.

**Dec. 6 – 22nd – World Day of the Sick: Give Our Lives for Our Brethren** – Translated extract (December 6, 2013, Vatican.va).

4. To grow in tender love, and a respectful and sensitive charity, we have a sure Christian model to contemplate: Mary, the Mother of Jesus and our Mother, who is always attentive to the voice of God and the needs and troubles of her children. Mary, impelled by God's mercy which took flesh within her, selflessly hastened from Galilee to Judea to find and help her kinswoman Elizabeth. She interceded with her Son at the wedding feast of Cana when she saw that there was a shortage of wine. She bore in her heart, throughout the pilgrimage of her life, the words of the elderly Simeon who foretold that a sword would pierce her soul, and with persevering strength she stood at the foot of the cross of Jesus. She knows the way, and for this reason she is the Mother of all of the sick and suffering. To her we can turn with confidence and filial devotion, certain that she will help us, support us and not abandon us. She is the Mother of the crucified and risen Christ: she stands beside our crosses and she accompanies us on the journey towards the resurrection and the fullness of life.

For more on what Pope Francis said about Mary: [Pope Francis on the World Day of the Sick](#)

**Dec. 7 –Pope Francis' Address to the Plenary Assembly of the Pontifical Council for the Laity** – Translated conclusion (December 10, 2013, Zenit.org).

I entrust the Pontifical Council for the Laity to the solicitous and maternal intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

**Dec. 8 – On the Immaculate Conception** – Translated beginning of the Angelus address (December 08, 2013, Zenit.org).

This second Sunday of Advent falls on the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, and so our gaze is drawn to the beauty of the Mother of Jesus, our Mother! With great joy the Church contemplates the one who is "Full of grace" (Luke 1:28), and beginning with these words let us all greet her together: "full of grace." Let us say "Full of grace!" 3 times. Everybody: Full of grace! Full of grace! Full of grace! And this is how God saw her from the very beginning in His plan of love. He saw her as beautiful, full of grace. Our Mother is beautiful! Mary helps us on our journey toward Christmas, because she teaches us how to live this season of Advent in expectation of the Lord, because this season of Advent is one in which we wait for the Lord, who will visit us all on that feast but who will also visit everyone in his heart. The Lord is coming! Let us await Him!

For more on what Pope Francis said about Mary: [Pope Francis on the Immaculate Conception](#)

**Dec. 8 – Homage to Mary Immaculate: Let Us Not Be Deaf to the Cry of the Poor or the Suffering of the Oppressed** –Translated beginning (December 8, 2013, VIS).

Virgin most holy and immaculate, to you, the honour of our people, and the loving protector of our city, do we turn with loving trust. You are all-beautiful, O Mary! In you there is no sin.

For more on what Pope Francis said about Mary: [Pope Francis' Homage to Mary Immaculate](#)

**Dec. 8 – Message for the Celebration of the World Day of Peace: Fraternity, the Foundation and Pathway to Peace** – Translated conclusion (Vatican.va).

May Mary, the Mother of Jesus, help us to understand and live every day the fraternity that springs up from the heart of her Son, so as to bring peace to each person on this our beloved earth.

**Dec. 9 – Pope's Homily at Mass Concelebrated with the Patriarch of Alexandria of the Coptic Catholics** – Translated conclusion (December 09, 2013, Zenit.org).

May your great Father Athanasius, ... intercede for us ... above all with the Immaculate and All Holy Mother of God.

**Dec. 11 – Francis Sends Message to the Americas for Thursday's Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe** – Translated beginning (December 11, 2013, Zenit.org).

Tomorrow is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of the Americas. I would like to greet all my brothers and sisters on that continent, and I do so thinking of the Virgin of Tepeyac. When Our Lady appeared to Saint Juan Diego, her face was that of a woman of mixed blood, a mestiza, and her garments bore many symbols of the native culture. Like Jesus, Mary is close to all her sons and daughters; as a concerned mother, she accompanies them on their way through life. She shares all the joys and hopes, the sorrows and troubles of God's People, which is made up of men and women of every race and nation.

For more on what Pope Francis said about Mary: [Pope Francis' Message on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe](#)

**Dec. 8 – The Pope's Message for World Day for Peace** – Translated conclusion (December 12, 2013, VIS).

May Mary, the Mother of Jesus, help us to understand and live every day the fraternity that springs up from the heart of her Son, so as to bring peace to each person on this our beloved earth.

**Dec. 15 – On the Sunday of Joy** – Translated conclusion of the Angelus address (December 15, 2013, Zenit.org).

The Virgin Mary helps us hurry toward Bethlehem to meet the Child who is born for us, for the salvation and joy of all men. To her the angels says: "Rejoice, full of grace. The Lord is with you" (Luke 1:28). She obtains for us the joy of the Gospel in the family, at work, in the parish and everywhere. It is an intimate joy, made of wonder and tenderness. It is what a mother experiences when she looks at her newborn child, and feels that he is a gift of God, a miracle that she can only be grateful for!

**Dec. 17 – Pope Francis Invites Residence Personnel to Morning Mass on His Birthday: Four Homeless People Also in Attendance at Mass** – Translated extracts (December 17, 2013, Zenit.org).

And Jesus is consubstantial to the Father, God, but also consubstantial to the Mother, a woman. And this is that consubstantiality of the Mother. God has made Himself history.

**Dec. 17 – Pope Francis' Letter on the Occasion of the 8th Centenary of Trinitarian Founder, St. John of Mata** – Translated conclusion (December 17, 2013, Zenit.org).

May ... the Holy Virgin take care of you.

**Dec. 18 – Text of Pope Francis' Weekly General Audience: "This God Father is generous! He comes to dwell with men, chooses the earth as His dwelling to be together with man and have Himself found where man spends his days in joy and sorrow."** – Translated conclusion (December 18, 2013, Zenit.org).

Let us entrust ourselves to the maternal intercession of Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, so that she will help us this Holy Christmas, now near, to recognize in the face of our neighbor, especially of the weakest and most marginalized persons, the image of the Son of God made man.

**Dec. 20 – Pope Francis: Silence Reveals the Mystery of God's Plan: Reflects on the Example of the Blessed Mother During Morning Mass** – Translated extract (December 20, 2013, Zenit.org).

Today's Gospel recalled the Annunciation, when the Angel Gabriel announced to the Blessed Virgin Mary that she would give birth to the Savior. "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will

overshadow you," said the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary. Reflecting on this "shadow" that conceals the mystery of the Incarnation, the Pope said this shadow is comparable to the cloud that protected the people of Israel in the desert.

**Dec. 20 – Pope's Address to Youth of Italian Catholic Action** – Translated extracts (December 20, 2013, Zenit.org).

Faith makes us recognize in that Child, born of the Virgin Mary, the true Son of God, who for love of us became man.

... I entrust you to Our Lady.

... let us pray a Hail Mary to Our Lady.

**Dec. 21 – The Pope Spends Saturday Afternoon with the Children in Rome's Bambino Gesù Hospital** – Translated extract (December 22, 2013, VIS).

Now, let us pray together to Our Lady before this beautiful statue of the Virgin with Jesus.

**Dec. 21 – The Pope to the Roman Curia: Professionalism, Service and Sanctity in Life** – Translated conclusion (December 21, 2013, VIS).

We would do well to meditate on Saint Joseph, who was so silent yet so necessary at the side of Our Lady. Let us think about him and his loving concern for his Spouse and for the Baby Jesus.

**Dec. 22 – On Mary and Joseph** – Translated beginning of the Angelus address (December 22, 2013, Zenit.org).

On this 4th Sunday of Advent, the Gospel tells us about the events that preceded Jesus's birth, the evangelist Matthew presents them from the point of view of St. Joseph, the betrothed husband of the Virgin Mary.

Joseph and Mary were living in Nazareth but they did not live together yet because the marriage ceremony had not yet taken place. In the meantime Mary, after having received the Angel's announcement, became pregnant by the work of the Holy Spirit. When Joseph realized that she was expecting he bewildered. The Gospel does not explain to us what his thoughts were but it does tell us the essential: he tries to do God's will and is ready for the most radical renunciation. Instead of defending himself and demanding his rights, Joseph opts for a solution that represents an enormous sacrifice for him. And the Gospel says: "Because he was a just man and did not want to accuse her publicly, he decided to send her away quietly" (1:19).

For more on what Pope Francis said about Mary: [Pope Francis on Mary and Joseph](#)

**Dec. 23 – Pope: Are Our Souls Open to Receive the Lord or Does It Have a 'Do Not Disturb' Sign? Reflects on the Coming of Christ During Morning Mass** – Translated extract (December 23, 2013, Zenit.org).

We, as the Church, accompany Our Lady in this path of waiting. ... He visits each one of us and our souls enters into this similarity: our soul resembles the Church, our soul resembles Mary. The fathers of the desert say that Mary, the Church, and our souls are feminine and that which is said of one, can similarly said about the other. ... Is our soul open like the Holy Mother Church and how Our Lady was open?

**Dec. 25 – Pope Francis' Homily at Christmas Midnight Mass** – Translated extract (December 26, 2013, Zenit.org).

The grace which was revealed in our world is Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary, true man and true God.

**Dec. 26 – Pope Francis' Homily at Christmas Midnight Mass** – Translated extracts of the Angelus address (December 26, 2013, Zenit.org).

Therefore, today, we pray in a special way for Christians who are discriminated against for their witness to Christ

and the Gospel.... let us entrust them to Our Lady [Hail Mary...]

May Mary, Queen of Martyrs, help us to live Christmas with this ardor of faith and love that shines in St. Stephen and in all the martyrs of the Church.

[Comments after the Angelus] The visit in these days to the creche to admire Mary and Joseph with the Child, will arouse in all a generous commitment to love one another, so that within families and various communities this climate of understanding and brotherhood that is so beneficial to the common good may be lived.

**Dec. 29 – On the Holy Family** – Translated beginning of the Angelus address (December 29, 2013, Zenit.org).

We are thankful for all the benefits that God has lavished on us, ..., which are manifested in the passing of time, but in a singular way in the fullness of time, when "God sent forth his Son, born of woman" (Galatians 4:4). May the Mother of God, in whose name we will begin tomorrow a new stretch of our earthly pilgrimage, teach us to welcome the God made man, so that every year, every month, every day is filled with His eternal Love.

For more on what Pope Francis said about Mary: [Pope Francis on the Holy Family](#)

**Dec. 31 – Pope's Homily During First Vespers of the Solemnity of the Mother of God and Te Deum: "[The year past] does not lead us to a reality that ends but to a reality that is fulfilled; it is a further step towards the end that is before us."** – Translated conclusion (January 02, 2014, Zenit.org).

We are thankful for all the benefits that God has lavished on us, ..., which are manifested in the passing of time, but in a singular way in the fullness of time, when "God sent forth his Son, born of woman" (Galatians 4:4). May the Mother of God, in whose name we will begin tomorrow a new stretch of our earthly pilgrimage, teach us to welcome the God made man, so that every year, every month, every day is filled with His eternal Love.