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January 2014

Pope Francis

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## The Marian Thoughts of Pope Francis

January 2014



**Jan. 1 – Mary, Source of Hope and True Joy** – Translated extracts of homily (January 1, 2014, VIS).

The message of hope contained in this blessing was fully realized in a woman, Mary, who was destined to become the Mother of God, and it was fulfilled in her before all creatures.

The Mother of God. This is the first and most important title of Our Lady. It refers to a quality, a role which the faith of the Christian people, in its tender and genuine devotion to our heavenly Mother, has understood from the beginning. We recall that great moment in the history of the ancient Church, the Council of Ephesus, in which the divine motherhood of the Virgin Mary was authoritatively defined. The truth of her divine maternity found an echo in Rome where, a little later, the Basilica of Saint Mary Major was built, the first Marian shrine in Rome and in the entire West, in which the image of the Mother of God – the Theotokos – is venerated under the title of *Salus Populi Romani*. It is said that the residents of Ephesus used to gather at the gates of the basilica where the bishops were meeting and shout, 'Mother of God!'. The faithful, by asking them to officially define this title of Our Lady, showed that they acknowledged her divine motherhood. Theirs was the spontaneous and sincere reaction of children who know their Mother well, for they love her with immense tenderness. But it is more: it is the *sensus fidei* of the holy People of God which, in its unity, never errs.

For more about what the Pope said about Mary...

**Jan. 1 – Peace Requires Force of Meekness, Truth and Love, Says Pope: Holy Spirit Animates Efforts of All Peacemakers Holy Father Says During Angelus Address on Solemnity of Mother of God** – Translated extract (January 2, 2014, Zenit.org).

We place our hopes with filial trust in the hands of Mary, Mother of the Redeemer. May she, who extends her maternal love to all mankind, hear the cry for peace of the people oppressed by war and violence, so that the courage of dialogue and reconciliation prevail over the temptation for revenge, arrogance, corruption.

We ask her for the Gospel of fraternity, proclaimed and witnessed by the Church, to speak to every conscience and break down the walls that prevent enemies from recognizing each other as brothers.

... Holy Mother of God, Holy Mother of God, Holy Mother of God!

**Jan. 3 – Pope: Gospel Must Be Preached Gently, with Fraternity and Love: Holy Father Recalls the Life of Peter Faber at a Mass in the Gesu, the Mother Church of the Jesuits** – Translated conclusion (January 3, 2014, Zenit.org).

...renew our oblation to the Lord, that through the Lord of the universe with the help of His glorious Mother we can desire and experience the feelings of Christ who emptied Himself. ... and pray to Our Lady to be placed with her Son.

**Jan. 3 – Pope Francis' Homily at Mass in the Church of the Gesu: "It is necessary to seek God to find Him, and to find Him in order to seek Him again and forever."** – Translated conclusion (January 3, 2014, Zenit.org).

And we pray to Our Lady to be messengers with her Son.

**Jan. 5 – On the Mystery of the Incarnation** – Translated extracts of the Angelus address (January 5, 2014, Zenit.org).

This is the good news of Christmas: the divine light, which flooded the hearts of the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph, and guided the steps of the shepherds and the magi, also shines for us today.

...May Mary, the Mother of God and our tender Mother, sustain us always so that we remain faithful to the Christian vocation and make the justice and peace that we desire at beginning of this new year a reality.

**Jan. 6 – Pope's Homily for the Solemnity of the Epiphany** – Translated conclusion (January 7, 2014, Zenit.org).

We must press on towards Bethlehem, where, in the simplicity of a dwelling on the outskirts, beside a mother and father full of love and of faith, there shines forth the Sun from on high, the King of the universe.

**Jan. 6 – On the Feast of the Epiphany** – Translated conclusion of the Angelus address (January 7, 2014, Zenit.org).

May the Virgin Mary help us all to be missionary-disciples, small stars that reflect His light.

**Jan. 6 – Pope Visits Roman Parish for the Feast of the Epiphany: Marvels at Unique Live Nativity Scene** – Translated extract of remarks (January 7, 2014, Zenit.org).

Long live Mary, ...

**Jan. 6 – Pope Francis Thanks Roman Priest for Live Nativity Scene Visit: Fr. Dario Cruscuoli Speaks to ZENIT on Memorable Visit by Pontiff** – Translated comments to an expectant mother (January 10, 2014, Zenit.org).

Speak with the Virgin Mary; she is a mother and will give you the grace and inspire you to do God's will.

**Jan. 10 – Pope's Address to the Papal Gentlemen** – Translated extracts (January 10, 2014, Zenit.org).

... we have all been touched ...by the wonder of the Son of God who becomes, out of love for us, Son of Mary ...

I entrust you and your families to Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, that she may accompany you and sustain you.

**Jan. 12 – Angelus: We Need a Supplement of Charity in Our Time** – Translated conclusion (January 12, 2014, VIS).

We pray that the Holy Virgin sustain us by her intercession in our efforts to follow Christ on the way of faith and charity, the path we set out on by virtue of our Baptism.

**Jan. 13 – The Pope's Letter to Cardinals to Be Elected on February 22** – Translated conclusion (January 13, 2014, VIS).

May ... the Holy Virgin protect you.

**Jan. 15 – World Day of Prayer for Vocations** – Translated extract (January 16, 2014, VIS).

Mary, the Mother of Jesus and ours, also says to us: 'Do whatever he tells you' (Jn 2:5).

**Jan. 20 – Pope's Address to Vatican Security: "It is important to rediscover the message of the Gospel and to receive it profoundly in our consciences and in the concreteness of daily life, witnessing to the love of God courageously in every environment, also in that of work"** – Translated conclusion (January 21, 2014, Zenit.org).

I entrust you all to the Virgin Mary. May she, as a solicitous Mother, protect each one of you, your families, and your work.

**Jan. 21 – God chooses the little ones** – Translated extract of homily at Casa Marta (January 21, 2014, L'Osservatore Romano).

The supreme example of this "dialogue between God and human littleness" is to be found in "Our Lady, in she who said: 'the Lord has looked upon my lowliness, he has looked upon those who are little, he has chosen the little ones.'"

May the Lord grant us, through the intercession of Our Lady – who joyfully sang to God, for He had looked upon her lowliness – the grace of keeping watch over our littleness in His sight.

**Jan. 21 – Pope's Message for World Youth Day 2014: "Jesus challenges us, young friends, to take seriously His approach to life and to decide which path is right for us and leads to true joy"** – Translated conclusion (February 06, 2014, Zenit.org).

...the Magnificat, the Canticle of Mary, poor in spirit, is also the song of everyone who lives by the Beatitudes. The joy of the Gospel arises from a heart which, in its poverty, rejoices and marvels at the works of God, like the heart of Our Lady, whom all generations call "blessed" (cf. Lk 1:48). May Mary, Mother of the poor and Star of the new evangelization help us to live the Gospel, to embody the Beatitudes in our lives, and to have the courage always to be happy.

**Jan. 25 – Pope Francis Receives the Italian Women's Centre: Broaden the Space for Women in the Church** – Translated extract (January 25, 2014, VIS).

It is in dialogue with God, enlightened by prayer, that the Christian woman continually searches to answer the Lord's call, in the reality of her situation. This is a prayer that is always supported by the maternal presence of Mary. She, who cared for her divine Son, who propitiated his first miracle at the wedding at Cana, who was present on Calvary and at the Pentecost, shows you the road to take to deepen the meaning and role of women in society and to be fully faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ and to your mission in the world.

**Jan. 28 – Pope Francis' Message to the 18th Public Session of the Pontifical Academies** – Translated conclusion (January 29, 2014, Zenit.org).

Finally, wishing the Academics and all here present a fruitful commitment in their respective fields of research, I entrust each one to the maternal protection of the Virgin Mary, *Sedes Sapientiae*, ...

**Jan. 31 – Pope Francis' Address to Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith: "Doctrine has the sole purpose of serving the life of the People of God and it seeks to assure our faith of a sure foundation."** – Translated conclusion (January 31, 2014, Zenit.org).

May ... Our Lady protect you.