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February 2014

Pope Francis

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The Marian Thoughts of Pope Francis

February 2014



Feb. 2 – Pope Francis' Homily on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord: "When Mary and Joseph take their child to the Temple of Jerusalem, it is Jesus' first encounter with His people." – Translated extracts (February 03, 2014, Zenit.org).

When Mary and Joseph take their child to the Temple of Jerusalem, it is Jesus' first encounter with His people, represented by the two elderly Simeon and Anna.

It was also an encounter within the history of the people, an encounter between young people and the elderly: the young were Mary and Joseph with their newborn, and the elderly were Simeon and Anna, two personages who always frequented the Temple.

For more on what Pope Francis said about Mary: [Pope Francis on the Presentation of the Lord](#)

Feb. 2 – On the Presentation of the Lord – Translated extract of the Angelus address (February 02, 2014, Zenit.org).

Today's Gospel gives an account of how Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple 40 days after his birth to offer and consecrate him to God according to the prescription of the Jewish law. This Gospel episode also constitutes an icon of the gift of their life made by those who, by a gift of God, assume the traits of Jesus as virgin, poor and obedient.

... next year will be dedicated in a special way to consecrated life. From this moment let us entrust this initiative to the intercession of the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph, who, as the parents of Jesus, were the first to be consecrated to him and to consecrate their life to Him.

Feb. 2 – Pope Francis' Address to Members of the Neocatechumenal Way – (February 02, 2014, Zenit.org).

I entrust you to the Virgin Mary, that she may inspire and always sustain your apostolate. In the school of this tender Mother, be zealous and joyful missionaries.

Feb. 2 – The Pope Writes a Letter to Families Asking Them to Pray for the Next Synod – Translated extracts (February 25, 2014, VIS).

The evangelist Luke tells us that the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph, in keeping with the Law of Moses, took

the Baby Jesus to the temple to offer him to the Lord, ... It is a beautiful image: two young parents and two elderly people, brought together by Jesus. ... May the protection of the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph always accompany all of you and help you to walk united in love and in caring for one another.

Feb. 6 – Pope's Message for Lent 2014: An Invitation to Evangelical Poverty in Our Time – (February 4, 2014, VIS).

Born of the Virgin Mary, He truly became one of us, like us in all things except sin'.

... May ... Our Lady keep you safe."

Feb. 6 – Message for 29th World Youth Day (February 6, 2014, VIS).

For more on what Pope Francis said about Mary: [Pope Francis Message for 29th World Youth Day](#)

Feb. 9 – On the Light of Christ – Translated extract of the Angelus address (February 09, 2014, Zenit.org).

The day after tomorrow, February 11, we celebrate the memorial of the Blessed Virgin of Lourdes,

Feb 10 – Pope Francis' Address to Pilgrims from Sri Lanka: "It is not easy [...] to heal the wounds and cooperate with yesterday's enemy to build tomorrow together, but it is the only path that gives hope for the future...." – Translated extract (February 10, 2014, Zenit.org).

You have come on pilgrimage to Rome to render homage to Our Lady, at the end of the celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of the consecration to her of the Church in Sri Lanka.

Seventy-five years ago, the dark clouds of what would be the second world conflict were thickening in the skies and the faithful, guided by a sure intuition of faith, entrusted themselves to Our Lady, who always defends her children from dangers. In 1940, in the dramatic circumstances of the war, the Archbishop of Colombo, Mgr Jean-Marie Masson, of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, made a vow to build a shrine in honour of Our Lady if the island were preserved from foreign invasion. So it came about, and after the end of the war the beautiful Shrine of Our Lady of Lanka at Tewatte was built, and was consecrated forty years ago.

For more on what Pope Francis said about Mary: [Pope Francis' Address to the people from Sri Lanka](#)

Feb. 13 – Francis' Address to Congregation for Catholic Education: "I also allow myself to suggest the need for retreats and spiritual exercises for educators"– Translated conclusion (February 13, 2014, Zenit.org).

...through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, I invoke the constant assistance of the Holy Spirit upon you and your initiatives.

Feb. 14 – Francis' Dialogue with Engaged Couples: "Marriage is a celebration a Christian celebration, not a worldly celebration" – Translated extract (February 14, 2014, Zenit.org).

On Mary's suggestion, in that moment Jesus reveals Himself for the first time and gives a sign: He transforms the water into wine and, by so doing, saves the wedding celebration.

Feb. 17 – Francis' Address to Czech Bishops: "A synergy is necessary between the clergy, the religious, and the lay faithful" – Translated conclusion (February 17, 2014, Zenit.org).

On invoking upon you and your ministry the intercession of the Holy Virgin, I ask you please to always pray for me....

Feb. 19 – On the Sacrament of Penance: "Be courageous and go to Confession!" – Translated conclusion of the general audience (February 19, 2014, Zenit.org)..

May the Virgin Mary help you, dear young people, to understand ever more the value of sacrifice in your human and Christian formation; may she support you, dear sick, in facing your pain and illness with serenity and fortitude; and may she guide you, dear newlyweds, to build your family on the solid basis of fidelity to the will of God.

Feb. 19 – Pope Francis' Message to the General Assembly of the Pontifical Academy for Life: "A society is truly open to life when it recognizes that life is precious even in the elderly population, in the disabled, and even in those who are gravely ill or in the process of dying. " – Translated conclusion (February 20, 2014, Zenit.org).

May ... Our Lady protect you always.

Feb. 23 – Pope Francis: Pray for the Pastors of the Church to be Good Servants, Not Good Masters – Translated conclusion of the Angelus address (February 23, 2014, VIS).

May Our Lady accompany us and protect us in this journey.

Feb. 26 – On the Anointing of the Sick: "The greatest comfort derives from the fact that is the Lord Jesus Himself who is present in the Sacrament." – Translated comments after the Angelus address (February 26, 2014, Zenit.org).

I invite all believers to raise supplications to God, through the maternal intercession of Our Lady of Coromoto, so that the country [Venezuela] will soon find peace and concord again.

Feb. 27 – Pope Francis' Address to Bishops Who Support Focolare Movement: "Today's society is in great need of the witness of a lifestyle that reveals the novelty given to us by the Lord Jesus;" – Translated conclusion (February 27, 2014, Zenit.org)

May the Virgin Mary accompany you and support you in your ministry.

Feb. 28 – Pope's Address to Pontifical Commission for Latin America 's Centre: Broaden the Space for Women in the Church – Translated conclusion (February 28, 2014, Zenit.org).

They must feel ... also the warmth of the other Mother, Jesus' and ours. When we walk holding on to her hand, our fear disappears and we learn to smile in a new way.