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April 2014

Pope Francis

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## The Marian Thoughts of Pope Francis

April 2014



**Apr. 2 – On the Sacrament of Marriage: “Married life is a most beautiful thing and we must guard it always.”** – Translated comments after the General Audience (April 2, 2014, Zenit.org).

I entrust to the protection of Our Lady of Roio all those who still live in hardship.

**Apr. 3 – The Church Has an Important Role in Reconciliation in Rwanda** –Translated conclusion (April 3, 2014, VIS).

It is my ardent hope that the Shrine of Kibeho may radiate the love of Mary for her children, especially for the poorest and most injured, and that it may be for the Church in Rwanda, and beyond, a call to turn with trust to 'Our Lady of Sorrows' so that she might accompany all on their path and obtain for them the gift of reconciliation and peace.

**Apr. 3 – Telegram for the Earthquake in Chile** – Translated conclusion (April 3, 2014, VIS).

I invoke the loving protection of Our Lady of Carmen, and impart my apostolic blessing as a sign of my cordial appreciation of the noble Chilean people, so dear to my heart.

**Apr. 3 – Pope's Address to Bishops of Rwanda: “I assure you of my prayer for you, yourselves, for your communities often torn apart, for all the victims and their families, for all the Rwandan people without distinctions of religion, ethnic origins or political affiliations.”** – Translated conclusion (April 3, 2014, Zenit.org).

I entrust you all to the maternal protection of the Virgin Mary. Jesus' Mother wished to manifest herself in your country to children, reminding them of the efficacy of fasting and prayer, in particular the prayer of the Rosary. I have an ardent wish that you will be able to make the Shrine of Kibeho shine yet more Mary's love for all her children, in particular for the poorest and most wounded, and that it be for the Church of Rwanda and beyond a call to return with confidence to “Our Lady of Sorrows,” that she may accompany each one in their path and obtain the gift of reconciliation and peace.

**Apr. 7 – On Divine Mercy: "There is no limit to divine mercy offered to all!"** – Translated comments after the Angelus address (April 6, 2014, Zenit.org).

In this moment we would like to unite ourselves with that community, which has suffered so much, which still suffers, struggles and hopes, with much confidence in God and in Our Lady.

**Apr. 7 – Pope Francis' Address to Tanzanian Bishops** – Translated conclusion (April 7, 2014, Zenit.org).

I commend all of you to the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, ...

**Apr. 9 – On Wisdom: "We have the Holy Spirit within us, in our heart; we can listen to Him or not listen to Him"** – Translated conclusion and comments (April 09, 2014, Zenit.org).

... let us ask Our Lady, who is the Seat of Wisdom, for this gift: may she give us this grace.

[In the comments afterwards] Let us ask our Mother Mary, Queen of Peace, to give us this gift for Syria and let us all pray together: Ave Maria ...

**Apr. 10 – Francis' Address to Gregorian University: "Your Institutes are not machines to produce theologians and philosophers; they are communities in which one grows, and growth occurs in the family"** – Translated conclusion (April 10, 2014, Zenit.org).

... I entrust each one of you, your study and your work to the intercession of Mary, Seat of Wisdom, ....

... I invite you to pray to Our Lady, the Mother, that she may help and protect you. Ave Maria ...

**Apr. 10 – Pope Francis' Discourse at Conference on Human Trafficking: "Human trafficking is an open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the body of Christ."** – Translated conclusion (April 10, 2014, Zenit.org).

I pray that ... Our Lady will watch over you.

**Apr. 11 – Francis Receives in Audience the International Catholic Child Bureau: The Church Will Take No Step Backwards in Sanctions Against Child Abusers** – Translated conclusion (April 11, 2014, VIS).

I am reminded of the logo of the Commission for the protection of childhood and adolescence in Buenos Aires. It was an image of the Holy Family seated on a donkey, fleeing to Egypt to defend the Child.

**Apr. 11 – Pope's Address to Italian Pro-Life Movement: "The unborn in the maternal womb is the innocent one par excellence."** – Translated conclusion (April 11, 2014, Zenit.org).

I entrust you to the celestial intercession of the Virgin Mother Mary ...

Let us turn to our Mother; may she may protect us all. Ave Maria.

**Apr. 12 – Pope to Oncologists: Don't Lose Sight of the Human Person: Francis Addresses Surgeons Treating Cancer Sufferers** – Translated extracts (April 14, 2014, Zenit.org).

Francis also acknowledged Our Lady of Sorrows, saying "she is always close to her sick and suffering children. "If our faith wavers, hers does not," he said. "May Mary support you in your commitment towards research and work."

**Apr. 13 – Pope Francis' Homily on Palm Sunday** – Translated extract (April 13, 2014, Zenit.org).

Am I like those courageous women, and like Jesus' Mother, who were there, suffering in silence?

**Apr. 13 – On Palm Sunday** – Translated conclusion of the Angelus address (April 13, 2014, Zenit.org).

Let us ask the Lord that the Cross, together with the image of Mary, "Salus Populi Romani," be a sign of hope for all, revealing to the world the unconquerable love of Christ.

... let us turn to the Virgin Mother that she might help us to always follow Jesus' example with faith.

**Apr. 14 – Pope's Address to Seminarians of Pontifical Leonine College of Anagni: "You, dear seminarians, are not preparing to become employees of a company."** – Translated

extracts (April 15, 2014, Zenit.org).

In face of this vocation, we can answer as Mary did to the Angel: “How is this possible?” (cf. Luke 1:34)  
... I entrust you to the Virgin, who is Mother. Never forget her! The Russian mystics said that in the moment of spiritual turbulence it is necessary to seek refuge under the mantle of the Holy Mother of God. Never leave there, covered with her mantle!

**Apr. 17 – Chrism Mass: Anointed with the Oil of Gladness** – Translated extract of homily (April 17, 2014, VIS).

I like to reflect on joy by contemplating Our Lady, for Mary, the 'Mother of the living Gospel, is a wellspring of joy for God's little ones'. ... No one is more 'little' than a priest left to his own devices; and so our prayer of protection against every snare of the Evil One is the prayer of our Mother.

... It is likewise an obedience to the Church in service: in availability and readiness to serve everyone, always and as best I can, following the example of 'Our Lady of Promptness' who hastens to serve Elizabeth her kinswoman and is concerned for the kitchen of Cana when the wine runs out.

**Apr. 21 – Pope's Regina Coeli Address on Easter Monday: Says let's “Bring a ‘ray’ of the light of the Risen One to different situations.”** – Translated conclusion (April 22, 2014, Zenit.org).

It will do us good this week to think also of the joy of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. How profound her sorrow was, so much so as to pierce her soul, how intimate and profound was her joy, which the disciples were able to draw from. Having passed through the experience of the Death and Resurrection of her Son, she is seen in faith as the supreme expression of the love of God, Mary's heart became a source of peace, of consolation, of hope and of mercy. All the prerogatives of our Mother stem from here, from her participation in Jesus' Pasch. From Friday to Sunday morning, she did not lose hope: we contemplated her as the sorrowful Mother but, at the same time, as a Mother full of hope. She, the Mother of all the disciples, the Mother of the Church, is the Mother of hope.

To her, silent witness of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus, we pray that she may introduce us to the joy of Easter. We will do so with the recitation of the Regina Caeli, which in Eastertide replaces the prayer of the Angelus.

**Apr. 24 – Pope: Do Not Be Afraid of Christian Joy: Says ‘Apostolic Joy’ is Foundation, Allowing Church to ‘Irradiate and Expand’** – Translated conclusion of homily (April 25, 2014, Zenit.org).

Pope Francis concluded by saying that St. Jose de Anchieta had a beautiful hymn to the Virgin Mary, to whom he compared the message of peace, that proclaims the joy of the Good News. “May she, who in that Sunday dawn, sleepless with hope, was not afraid of joy, accompany us on our pilgrimage, inviting us all to rise, to set our paralyses aside, to enter together into the peace and joy that Jesus, the Risen Lord, promises us.”

**Apr. 25 – Pope's Discourse to South African Bishops: Says “your countries are thriving often against very great odds.”** – Translated conclusion (April 25, 2014, Zenit.org).

May Our Lady of Africa be always at your side, and may she guide you as you share in the teaching, sanctifying and governing mission of Christ.

**Apr. 27 – Text of Papal Messages to Poles and People of Bergamo: Francis Sent Messages Ahead of Canonization of John XXIII and John Paul II** – Translated extract (April 27, 2014, Zenit.org).

We are inspired by his total entrustment to ... the Mother of God.

**Apr. 27 – Pope Francis' Homily at Canonization Mass of Sts. John XXIII and John Paul II: “May these two new saints and shepherds of God's people intercede for the Church”** – Translated extract (April 27, 2014, Zenit.org).

They lived through the tragic events of that century, but they were not overwhelmed by them. For them, ... and more powerful too was the closeness of Mary our Mother.

**Apr. 27 – On the Canonization of Sts. John XXIII and John Paul II: “We turn in prayer to the Virgin Mary, whom St. John XXIII and St. John Paul II loved like her true sons” –**

Translated conclusion of the Regina Coeli address (April 27, 2014, Zenit.org).

And now we turn in prayer to the Virgin Mary, whom St. John XXIII and St. John Paul II loved like her true sons.

**Apr. 28 – The Pope: Do Not Be Afraid! Think of the Young Apostles –** Translated extracts of

video message to Youth of Buenos Aires (April 28, 2014, VIS).

There is one model for you, Mary: the woman of fidelity, who did not understand what was happening to her but obeyed nonetheless; who, as soon as she knew her cousin needed her, ran to her, the Virgin of Readiness. Mary, who helped to raise her Son and to accompany Him, and followed Him when he began to preach; who suffered through all that happened to the boy as he grew. She who stayed by His side and told Him of problems: 'Look, they have no wine'. She who, at the moment of the Cross, stayed next to Him. ... You are women of the Church ... who is female, like Mary. This is your place. Being Church, forming the Church, being with Jesus, with tenderness, to accompany the Church and help her grow.”

... So don't be angry, you got a better deal than the men!”...“Mary, Lady of the Caress, Lady of Tenderness, Lady of the Readiness to Serve,” who shows them the way. ... look at Mary, and go forward!”