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Pope Benedict XVI

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The Marian Thoughts of Pope Benedict XVI

March 2, 2008 to March 31, 2008



On Lent's Baptismal Journey – Angelus Address, March 2, 2008

... Dear brothers, let us allow Jesus to heal us, Jesus who can and wants to give us the light of God! Let us confess our own blindnesses, our myopias, and above all that which the Bible calls the "great sin" (Psalm 18:14): pride. May Mary Most Holy help us in this, who, giving birth to Christ in the flesh, gave the world the true light.

Papal Address for the Sixth European Day for Universities – March 3, 2008

... This, dear friends, is the duty I consign to you today: Be disciples of and witnesses to the Gospel, because the Gospel is the good seed of the Kingdom of God, in other words, the civilization of love! Be builders of peace and of unity! A sign of this catholic unity, that is, universal and integral in the contents of the Christian faith that unites all of us, is the initiative of giving to each one of you the text of the encyclical "Spe Salvi," on CD in five languages. May the Virgin Mary watch over you, your families and your loved ones.

Address to Participants in an annual course on matters of conscience, organized by the Tribunal of the Apostolic Penitentiary - March 7, 2008

... May the Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy and of Hope, help you who are present here and all confessors to carry out zealously and joyfully this great service on which the Church's life so intensely depends.

On the Resurrection of Lazarus – Angelus Address, March 9, 2008

... We entrust this prayer to Mary Most Holy. May her intercession strengthen our faith and our hope in Jesus, especially in the moments of great trial and difficulty?

Papal Telegram for the Death of Chiara Lubich - March 14, 2008

... And, as I commend her soul to divine goodness that she may be welcomed in the bosom of the Father, I hope that those who knew and met her, admiring the wonders that God achieved through her missionary ardor, may follow her footsteps and keep her charism alive. With such sentiments, I invoke the maternal intercession of Mary and willingly impart my apostolic blessing to everyone".

Angelus Address – March 16, 2008

... We now address the Virgin Mary in prayer, so that she help us to live [Holy Week](#) in spiritual union with Christ the Lord.

"Love Is Stronger Than Hate; It Has Triumphed" – Angelus address, March 19, 2008

... Turning now in prayer to Mary, we recognize in her the human creature interiorly transfigured by the grace of Christ, and we entrust ourselves to her guidance to continue in the journey of Lent with faith.

Pope's greeting to students in St. Peter's Basilica:

...I commend each one of you and your families to Mary, who never stopped contemplating the face of her son Jesus. ... I heartily wish you a happy Easter.

Catechesis in Paul VI Hall

Holy Saturday is marked by a deep silence. The Churches are left undecorated and there are no particular liturgies set aside for this day. While waiting for the Resurrection, the faithful persevere in the wait with Mary by praying and meditating. A day of silence is necessary to ponder the reality of human life, the forces of evil and the enormous power of good unleashed by the passion and resurrection of Christ.

... In this commitment that involves all of us, let us allow ourselves to be guided by Mary, who accompanied her divine son on the road to his passion and cross, and who participated with the strength of her faith in the realization of his plan of salvation.

Pope's Message for Easter – March 23, 2008

...Let us invoke the fullness of his Paschal gifts, through the intercession of Mary who, after sharing the sufferings of the passion and crucifixion of her innocent Son, also experienced the inexpressible joy of his resurrection. Sharing in the glory of Christ, may she be the one to protect us and guide us along the path of fraternal solidarity and peace. These are my Easter greetings, which I address to all who are present here, and to men and women of every nation and continent united with us through radio and television. Happy Easter!

Pope's Address to Participants of Salesian General Chapter - March 31, 2008

... I therefore warmly hope that the entire Salesian Congregation, thanks to the results of your General Chapter, may live with renewed dynamism and fervor the mission for which, through the maternal intervention of Mary, Help of Christians, the Holy Spirit brought it into being in the Church. I want today to encourage you and all Salesians to continue on the path of this mission in full fidelity to your original charism, already in the context of the upcoming second centenary of Don Bosco's birth.