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December 2016

Pope Francis

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Marian Thoughts of Pope Francis



December 2016

December 1 – Pope’s Address to Conference on Ministry to International Students (4th World Congress) – Translated conclusion (December 1, 2016, Zenit.org).

I entrust you all to the maternal protection of Mary Most Holy, our Mother. I bless you, your studies, your friendship and your missionary commitment. And you, please, don’t forget to pray for me.

December 2 – Pope’s Message to Piarist Fathers for Anniversary of Foundation – Translated conclusion (December 2, 2016, Zenit.org).

I entrust all of you, the Order, the Calasancian Family and the Piarist Fraternities to the Blessed Virgin Mary, whose name the Order of the Pious Schools bears. Mary, who was the first teacher of Jesus, is your model and protection to continue carrying out your mission, accompanying the little ones towards the Kingdom of God.

December 4 – Angelus – Translated conclusion (December 4, 2016, Vatican.va).

May the Virgin Mary help us to prepare ourselves for the encounter with this ever greater Love, which is what Jesus brings and which, on Christmas night, becomes very small, like a seed fallen on the soil. And Jesus is this seed: the seed of the kingdom of God.

December 7 – General Audience – Translated extract (December 7, 2016, Vatican.va).

The true history that which will remain in eternity is the one that God writes with his little ones: God with Mary, God with Jesus, God with Joseph, God with the little ones.

For more of what the pope said about Mary (including greetings):

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2016/documents/papa-francesco_20161207_udienza-generale.html

December 8 – Pope Francis’ Prayer During Veneration of Immaculate Conception Statue in Piazza di Spagna – Translated Extract (December 8, 2016, Zenit.org).

O Mary, our Immaculate Mother, on your feast day I come to you, and I do not come alone: I bring with me those whom your Son has entrusted to me, in this city of Rome and in the whole world, so that you will bless them and saved them from dangers...

For more of what the pope said about Mary:

<https://zenit.org/articles/pope-francis-prayer-during-veneration-of-immaculate-conception-statue-in-piazza-di-spagna/>

December 8 – Angelus – Translated Extract (December 8, 2016, Vatican.va).

The readings for today’s Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary present two crucial passages in the history of the relationship between man and God:

For more of what the pope said about Mary:

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/angelus/2016/documents/papa-francesco_angelus_20161208.html

December 8 – Pope’s Interview with Belgian Weekly Newspaper ‘Tertio’ – Translated Extract (December 8, 2016, Zenit.org).

Remember that you have a Mother who loves you. Do not cease to love your Mother the Virgin.

December 8 – Message of His Holiness for the Celebration of the Fiftieth World Day of Peace on 1 January 2017 – Translated extract (December 8, 2016, Vatican.va).

7. As is traditional, I am signing this Message on 8 December, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mary is the Queen of Peace. At the birth of her Son, the angels gave glory to God and wished peace on earth to men and women of good will (cf. Luke 2:14). Let us pray for her guidance.

December 11 – Angelus – Translated conclusion (December 11, 2016, Vatican.va).

May the Virgin Mary, the “handmaid of the Lord”, help us to hear God’s voice in prayer and to serve him with compassion in our brothers, so as to be prepared for the Christmas appointment, preparing our hearts to welcome Jesus.

December 12 – Pope’s Homily for Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe – Translated Extract (December 12, 2016, Zenit.org).

“Blessed is she who has believed”: with these words, Elizabeth anoints the presence of Mary in her house.

For more of what the pope said about Mary:

<https://zenit.org/articles/popes-homily-for-feast-of-our-lady-of-guadalupe/>

December 13 – Pope Sends Condolences at Death of Opus Dei Prelate – Translated conclusion (December 13, 2016, Zenit.org).

I commend him with affection to the protection of our Mother, Our Lady of Guadalupe, on whose feast day he gave his soul to God.

December 15 – Pope’s Message for 25th World Day of the Sick – Translated extract (December 15, 2016, Zenit.org).

I encourage all of you, the sick, the suffering, physicians, nurses, family members and volunteers, to see in Mary, Health of the Infirm, the sure sign of God’s love for every human being and a model of surrender to His will.

For more of what the pope said about Mary:

<https://zenit.org/articles/popes-message-for-25th-world-day-of-the-sick/>

December 18 – Angelus – Translated extract (December 18, 2016, Vatican.va).

Mary is presented in the light of the prophet who says: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son” (v. 23). Matthew the Evangelist recognizes that this happened in Mary, who conceived Jesus through the Holy Spirit (cf. v. 18). The Son of God “comes” into her womb in order to become man, and she welcomes him.

For more of what the pope said about Mary:

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/angelus/2016/documents/papa-francesco_angelus_20161218.html

December 19 – Pope’s Address to Youth of Catholic Action (Audience) – Translated conclusion (December 19, 2016, Zenit.org).

May the Lord bless you and our Lady protects you.

December 19 – Pope’s Video Message to Avrai Charity Concert (Bicentenary of the Vatican) – Translated conclusion (December 19, 2016, Zenit.org).

He was born of the Virgin Mary as all children, was wrapped in swaddling clothes, taken in arms and nursed. But not only that: He, His Mother and Joseph had to deal with the fact that there was no room for them at the inn.

December 21 – General Audience: Christian Hope – Translated extract (December 21, 2016, Vatican.va).

Then we look to Mary, Mother of hope. With her 'yes' she opened the door of our world to God: her maiden's heart was full of hope, wholly enlivened by faith; and thus God chose her and she believed in his word. She, who for nine months was the Ark of the new and eternal Covenant, in the grotto, contemplates the Child and sees in him the love of God, who comes to save his people and the whole of humanity.

For more of what the pope said about Mary (including greetings):

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2016/documents/papa-francesco_20161221_udienza-generale.html

December 22 – Pope's Christmas Greetings to Holy See, Vatican City Staff – Translated conclusion (December 22, 2016, Zenit.org).

May the Lord bless you and may our Lady protect you.

December 24 – Homely (Midnight Mass: Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord) – Translated extract (December 24, 2016, Vatican.va).

Such was the case with Joseph and Mary, who met with closed doors, and placed Jesus in a manger, "because there was no place for them in the inn" (v. 7).

For more of what the pope said about Mary:

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2016/documents/papa-francesco_20161224_omelia-natale.html

December 25 – Pope's 'Urbi et Orbi' Blessing – Translated extract (December 25, 2016, Zenit.org).

Today the Church once again experiences the wonder of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph and the shepherds of Bethlehem, as they contemplate the newborn Child laid in a manger: Jesus, the Savior.

For more of what the pope said about Mary:

<https://zenit.org/articles/popes-urbi-et-orbi-blessing-2/>

December 26 – Angelus – Translated conclusion (December 26, 2016, Vatican.va).

Let us raise our prayers to the Virgin Mary, Mother of God and Queen of Martyrs, that she may guide us and always sustain us on our journey in following Jesus Christ, whom we contemplate in the grotto of the Nativity and who is the faithful Witness of God the Father.

For more of what the pope said about Mary (including greetings):

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/angelus/2016/documents/papa-francesco_angelus_20161226.html

December 28 – General Audience: On Hope – Translated extract (December 28, 2016, Zenit.org).

I greet the parish groups, particularly the faithful of Supino and of Sant'Andrea delle Frate in Rome, who have come with the effigy of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, which will be exhibited in Saint Peter's Basilica.

December 28 – Letter of His Holiness to Bishops on the Feast of the Holy Innocents – Translated conclusion (December 28, 2016, Vatican.va).

May we do this with the paternal fidelity of Saint Joseph and guided by Mary, Mother of tender love, so that our own hearts may never grow hard.

December 31 – Homely (First Vespers on the Solemnity of Mary Holy Mother of God) – Translated extract (December 31, 2016, Vatican.va).

Looking at the manger, we see Joseph and Mary, their young faces full of hopes and aspirations, full of questions.

For more of what the pope said about Mary (including greetings):

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2016/documents/papa-francesco_20161231_te-deum.html