

MOTHER OF MERCY

Hour of Adoration in honor of Mary

I prepare my heart for this hour of adoration by quieting my soul and allowing it to be receptive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

Introduction

In this adoration, I want to reflect on Mary's special role as my "Mother of Mercy." What does such a title mean for me? Pope Francis offers the following answer: "We know one thing: nothing is impossible for God's mercy! Even the most tangled knots are loosened by his grace. And Mary, whose yes opened the door for God to undo the knot of the ancient disobedience, is the Mother who patiently and lovingly brings us to God, so that he can untangle the knots of our soul by his fatherly mercy" (Rome, Oct. 12, 2013).

In silence, I acknowledge the great gift Mary is in my life, and the many ways this heavenly Mother "patiently and lovingly brings me to God."

Silent reflection & adoration

Pope Francis tells us that it is in the concern Mary expressed at the wedding feast of Cana that we see the tenderness of God. Mary's "mercy" is shown in her ability to intercede for us and to always anticipate our needs, precisely as she did at the wedding at Cana.

Proclamation of the Holy Gospel according to John (2: 2–11)

The Wedding at Cana



2 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴ And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶ Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or

thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. ⁹ When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the

bridegroom¹⁰ and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.”¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. (NRSV)

Commenting on this passage, Blessed James Alberione, Founder of the Pauline Family writes: “In this narrative we see Mary’s attentiveness to the needs of others. She is at the wedding, but she is not so much concerned about the external feast as she is eager to see that all proceeds smoothly, that the holy joy is not disturbed. She is anxious to spare the bridal couple embarrassment.... Mary has boundless care and solicitude for each of her children. Her prayer is very brief but humble, accompanied by great and most powerful faith.... Mary has wisdom to know our necessities, goodness which is moved by our miseries, and power to intercede for us and come to our assistance. This is why we should confide in this Mother. Her eyes are turned toward all her children, the just and sinners, in order to discern our spiritual and material needs, difficulties, and dangers. She knows them all. Moreover, she is more sensitive and compassionate than any earthly mother, even the best. She is the Mother of Mercy.”

Take some time to reflect on the Gospel passage and commentary above.

Mary, Mother of Mercy, was also attentive to the needs of her cousin Elizabeth in Hebron. Upon her visit to the house of Zachariah after she greeted Elizabeth, she burst into a hymn of praise, the Magnificat. Now following is a prayer of praise in honor of *Mary* written by Blessed James Alberione to commemorate her love for the Lord and for each one of us individually.

My soul magnifies Mary, and my spirit rejoices in my Mother, Queen, and Teacher.

Because God has regarded the lowliness of his handmaid:

behold, angels and all people call her blessed.

Because he who is mighty has done great things in her,
and chose her Immaculate, Virgin, Mother,
and assumed her into heaven.

The mercy of Mary extends from one generation to another,
to those who love her and seek her.

The power, the wisdom, and the love of Mary
save those who are humble in the depths of their hearts.

She draws to herself all those who contemplate her,
those who run to the perfume of her ointments.

She fills the hungry with good, to the blind she gives light of heart.

She gave to the world Jesus Master, who is the blessed fruit of her womb.

And he became the wisdom of God for us,
justice, sanctification, and redemption throughout the centuries.

Blessed James Alberione, ssp

Thought for the Examination of Conscience

Lord, as I enter this time for the examination of my conscience, I ask you to give me light to see how my life resembles yours; how do I reflect the joy of God's tenderness toward others? Am I able to imitate Mary in my manner of reverencing you and relating towards others?

I will spend some time reflecting on Mary's love for God and how she in turn showed this love towards others.

Examination of Conscience

Conclude this time of the examination of conscience with a prayer of sorrow for sin.

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you. And I detest all of my sins because of your just punishments. But, most of all because they offend you, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasions of sin.

After having formulated a resolution to be carried out I pray this prayer of resolution.

Lord, make me a channel of your peace, where there is hatred let me sow love. Where there is injury Lord let me bring your pardon. Where there is doubt let me foster true faith in you. Grant that I may not seek to be consoled but to console others instead, for this I pray. May I be understood as I seek to understand others. May I be loved so that I in turn may love my neighbor as myself. Where there is despair, Lord, may I bring hope. Where there is darkness, may I be a bearer of your light. Where there is sadness may I foster joy. Amen

Prayer adapted from the Prayer of St. Francis

Pray the Second Luminous Mystery of the Rosary – The Miracle at the Feast of Cana

Take time for silent adoration

Closing prayer of Pope Francis:

Holy Mary...,
with renewed gratitude for your maternal presence
we join our voice to that of all the generations
who call you blessed.
We celebrate in you the works of God,
who never tires of looking down with mercy upon humanity,
afflicted with the wound of sin,
to heal it and save it....

We are certain that each of us is precious in your eyes
and that nothing of all that lives in our hearts is unknown to you.
We let ourselves be touched by your most sweet regard
and we welcome the consoling caress of your smile.

Hold our life in your arms:
bless and strengthen every desire for good;
revive and nourish faith;
sustain and enlighten hope;
awaken and animate charity;
guide all of us along the path of holiness.

Teach us your own preferential love for the little and the poor,
for the excluded and the suffering,
for sinners and the downhearted:
bring everyone under your protection
and entrust everyone to your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus. Amen

(Scripture: New Revised Standard Version; photo: public domain)