



The Glorious Mysteries

The Glorious mysteries can only be meditated upon in faith. A trusting faith, that surrenders everything. We experience our smallness before the mystery of the divine Glory of Christ and that of his mother, Mary. A mystery that is bigger than us. We contemplate.... We hope...

How difficult it is with our human hearts to get close to the Glory of the Lord! And yet at the same time, how simple and beautiful the prayer of the Rosary is. We take our rosary beads, as Mary often asked us to do, most notably when she asked the children of Fatima one hundred years ago. We rest our hearts as we recite the *Holy Mary's*, and we think of her, united with the Lord. In the moments of joy to give thanks and in the ordeals to implore her aid, until the hour of our death. We can be sure that Mary intercedes for us with her Son. Because the power of God is there, in our hands.

Let us ask Mary to educate us, to help us contemplate these mysteries in faith, love and hope! Like her, let us surrender with confidence, *"I am the servant of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your word."* And let us be carried by her intercession with the Father who awaits us, as always, with wide open arms. Let us throw ourselves in to the hope evoked by these glorious mysteries.

"If we want to ask the King for something, let us go through the Queen, for our wish is certain to be granted." (St. John Vianney)

Aude & Olivier de la Motte

Spiritual Letter

*Queen of heaven, Rejoice, Alleluia!
For He whom you did merit to bear, Alleluia!
Has risen, as he said, Alleluia!
Pray for us to God, Alleluia!*

This antiphon to the Virgin Mary, probably composed by Pope Gregory (996-998), is sung in Rome on Easter Sunday. From the 12th century onwards, the *Regina caeli* was said in place of the *Angelus* during Eastertide (that is, from Easter Day through Pentecost, the seventh Sunday after Easter).

Who says this antiphon? Us, of course. But us, in our state as pilgrims on this earth, as we walk along the painful paths, as well as the paths of joy, serenity and peace... For the peace of God is also present in our hearts, even if the ordeals are there too. We sing this antiphon at Eastertide when we assert with great joy the resurrection of our Saviour.

To whom is this antiphon addressed? To the Virgin Mary, with her particular title of "Queen of Heaven" (*regina caeli*). During Eastertide, (and on the day when the Glorious Mysteries are said), we contemplate Mary in the glory of her Assumption and in the beauty of her Coronation. A queen is always considered as the person closest to the king and so, she has a decisive influence on his heart, his projects, his decisions. Thus it is that we turn to her, with hope, with the assurance that we will not be disappointed.

“Queen of heaven, Rejoice, Alleluia!” Of course, she rejoices, she is in Heaven. But these words obviously touch her profoundly because they are the first words the Angel Gabriel uttered to her in Nazareth, announcing that she would be the mother of the Saviour. The connection is thus established between heaven and earth: The Virgin Mary’s whole story is contained in these words: the joy of the incarnation flourishing in the eternity of heaven. Joyful mysteries.

But the antiphon insists, *“For He whom you did merit to bear, Alleluia!”* Mary’s “title” is “Mother of God.” Mary bore Jesus in a manger, and when her son was given back to her, at the descent from the cross, Mary became Our Lady of Suffering. In the Latin of the antiphon, which the English translates exactly, the precision is given that Mary *“merited to bear Him.”* And here Mary’s faith is declared. When, along with Joseph, she brought her child to the Temple, Simeon announced the cross to her. Mary kept all these things in her heart, meaning with faith. The merit of faith. Sorrowful mystery.

And the antiphon continues, *“Has risen, as he said, Alleluia!”* The *“as he said”* is important. Jesus announced his passion and resurrection to his disciples three times. Mary, who never stopped meditating these things in her heart, knew this. She believed, before seeing. In heaven, she sees. Glorious Mystery.

And the antiphon ends, *“Pray for us to God, Alleluia!”* This is the goal of the entire Rosary. We entrust ourselves personally, we entrust those who are closest to us, those who have asked for our intercession. With the Virgin Mary, through her, the world is present in our heart before God and we offer it to Him, hoping to know like her, the glory of the resurrection.

Paul-Dominique Marcovits, o.p.
Spiritual Counsellor to the Intercessors

O Mary, Virgin of Victory, when everything resembles the tomb, when everything seems forever without a solution, in the darkest parts of our lives, come Mary, come and alight in us the fire of victory, the hope of life stronger than everything, beyond everything!

The Resurrection

“Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.

But the angel answered and said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.” (Mt 28:1-7)

“From the first moment of the Resurrection, that took place at the Holy Sepulchre, Mary believed in this mystery, for she was present and experienced it. Since the human soul of Christ, before the Cross, already experienced the beatific vision, the Resurrection is the glorification of his suffering and dead body: the glorification of a body transformed into a body alive once more, alive with an eternal life over which death has no hold (Rm 6:9), alive with a life of glory and complete love. It is the victory of love that shines and transforms Jesus’ whole body.

In the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection, Mary came to know, in faith, hope and love, a new unity even stronger and simpler. Mary, through the mystery she experienced, wants to teach us also, to live from the glory, down here, with faith.

Let us ask her that we be allowed to experience fully the mystery of the Resurrection and to enable us to understand a little better what contemplation with faith really is: being present before the presence of the one who, glorified for us, watches us and loves us and calls us to live and experience his own mystery."

*The Rosary Meditated, Le Rosaire médité
Ephata, Fayard, vol 2, 1988, Pg. 1351*

The Ascension

"And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and^[1] blessing God. Amen." (Lk 24:50-53)

"Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11)

"It is the high priest who blesses and leaves his apostles, but who remains with them, forever. This is why they bless and give thanks. Let us also be as joyful. What God did in Christ, he does in our faith and in each of our lives and he calls us to bless. Let us bless God because he is, let us bless God for what he is."

Marie Joseph Le Guillou
La puissance de l'amour de Dieu dans sa parole, Homélie Année C, Pg. 127

Lord, guide and lead us.
You emerged from the Father to come into the world
And you returned to the Father.
May this same movement impact our lives
And we will go out to the world with you
And we will judge the world
According to its true values
And we will love it
Just as you alone can love it.
It will be our joy and it will be our peace.

O Mary, Our Lady of Hope, when we look towards the earth, when blindly we persist in hanging onto our material goods, teach us to raise our heads towards Heaven, there where the Lord invites us and prepares for our return!

Pentecost

"When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord^[2] in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon

each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:1-4)

“On the Day of Pentecost, the apostles and disciples were together in the Cenacle. The Mother is there amongst her children. Suddenly the flames appear, and hover over them and make them into new men. Filled with joy and love, they run to announce the marvels of God. This scene irresistibly evokes another one: in Nazareth, 33 years earlier, Gabriel spoke to Mary, *“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, the power of the Almighty will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”* At Christ’s birth, at the birth of the mystical Body, Mary was there, willing, and the Holy Spirit intervened to accomplish, with her help, the work of God.”

(Talking about the ‘young Church’ at the time of the Acts of the Apostles)

“Mary is not mentioned, but we know quite well that she was there, humble and discrete, amidst all her children, who experienced in joyful exaltation the days following Pentecost. Isn’t the best proof of her maternal presence, the miraculous union between all the disciples: they *“were of one heart and one soul.”* Mary did not preach. Did she only do miracles? ... There, she is the Witness *par excellence* to her Son’s life.”

Father Henri Caffarel

The Golden Ring, n° 57-58, 1954, Pg. 231-243

O Mary, Our Lady of Pentecost, although our faith is poor and fragile, intercede for us so that we receive the Fire of the Holy Spirit, that he gives us the missionary and apostolic momentum to reach out to all our brothers and sisters!

The Dormition – The Assumption

“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!” (...) *“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour.” (Lk 1:42,47)*

“The married union is worth, in terms of human and eternal quality, what the union between the spouses and God is worth. The more they open up to the God of love, the richer the exchange of love will be between them. Before them extend infinite perspectives: their love will never finish growing, because they will always be able to open themselves ever more to the gift of God. If they want their love to be a lively flame always shining brightly, they need to love God more and more every day.”

Father Henri Caffarel

The Golden Ring, Special Number, The Mystery of Love, Pg. 18

The Coronation of Mary

“Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.” (Apoc 12:1)

“Mary, my Mother and my Queen, I give you my soul and my body, my life and my death and all that will follow afterwards. I leave everything in your hands, O my Mother. Cover my soul with Your Virginal Cloak and give me the grace of a pure heart, soul and body...”

St. Faustina

O Mary, Virgin and Queen, crowned with your glory, come and triumph in the hearts of your children, in the heart of your Church, where you are Queen and Spouse. O Mary, Immaculate Queen, Queen of Heaven and Earth, blessed are you amongst all creatures!

GENERAL INTENTION

We join our prayers with those of Pope Francis and his intention for this month of April, *“Young People. That young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in the priesthood or consecrated life.”*

May your Holy Spirit guide, enlighten and strength our young people. May they follow you like the disciples, you the Resurrected one, and may they listen to your words with all their hearts. May they respond generously to the calling to serve the Church, each person in their own way.

INDIVIDUAL INTENTION

May the commemorations of the Centenary of the Apparitions at Fatima be the occasion for each person to renew their faith and consecrate themselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. May we dare to entrust our sacrament of marriage, our families, to her with confidence. Let us open our hearts to the merciful love of Mary and may we serve her, pray to her, and offer her our lives. May the prayer of the Rosary spread in the hearts of all, so that there is Peace in the world.

<http://www.fatima100.fr/en>



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