

Day 30 of 33

Matthew 27:36-44

And they sat and watched him. And they put over his head his cause written: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS. Then were crucified with him two thieves: one on the right hand, and one on the left. And they that passed by, blasphemed him, wagging their heads, And saying: Vah, thou that destroyest the temple of God, and in three days dost rebuild it: save thy own self: if thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross. In like manner also the chief priests, with the scribes and ancients, mocking, said: He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the king of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. He trusted in God; let him now deliver him if he will have him; for he said: I am the Son of God. And the selfsame thing the thieves also, that were crucified with him, reproached him with.

Imitation of Christ, by Thomas á Kempis: Book 2, Chapter 12
Of the King's High Way of the Holy Cross

Unto many this seemeth an hard saying, "Deny thyself, take up thy cross, and follow Jesus" (Matt. 16:24). But much harder will it be to hear that last word, "Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire" (Matt. 25:41). For they who now willingly hear and follow the word of the Cross, shall not then fear (Psalm 112:7) to hear the sentence of everlasting damnation. This sign of the Cross shall be in the heaven, when the Lord shall come to judgment (Matt. 24:30). Then all the servants of the Cross, who in their life-time conformed themselves unto Christ crucified, shall draw near unto Christ the Judge with great confidence.

Why therefore fearest thou to take up the Cross which leadeth thee to a kingdom? In the Cross is salvation, in the Cross is life, in the Cross is protection against our enemies, in the Cross is infusion of heavenly sweetness, in the

Cross is strength of mind, in the Cross joy of spirit, in the Cross the height of virtue, in the Cross the perfection of holiness.

Take up therefore thy Cross and follow Jesus (Luke 14:27), and thou shalt go into life everlasting.

Recite: Litany of the Holy Ghost, Ave Maris Stella, Litany of the Holy Name, St. Louis de Montfort's Prayer to Mary, and O Jesus Living In Mary (See Appendix)

THE VIRGIN MARY IN THE KINGDOM

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**The Virgin Mary instructs the Apostles and becomes
the refuge of the nascent Church
in expectation of the Holy Spirit**

The soul to its Heavenly Mother:

Here I am again before you, Heavenly Sovereign. I feel so drawn to you that I count the minutes, awaiting you, who have attained the Supreme Heights, to call me and share with me the beautiful surprises of your maternal lessons. Your motherly love enraptures me, and knowing that you love me makes my heart rejoice and fills me with great confidence. Indeed, my mother who loves me so much and grants me so much grace, will form such a sweet enchantment for my human will that the Divine Will shall extend its seas of light within my soul and place the seal of the [third] Fiat in all of my acts. O holy mother, never leave me to myself again. Let the Holy Spirit descend upon me to vanquish from me whatever opposes the Divine Will.

Lesson of the Queen of Heaven:

My blessed child, your words echo in my Heart and so wound me that I [feel compelled to] pour myself out into you along with my seas of grace. Oh, how these seas run to

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you, my child, to give you the life of the Divine Will. If you are faithful to me, I will no longer leave you, but will always be with you to infuse into each one of your acts, words and heartbeats from the heavenly banquet God's of the Divine Will.

Now, my child, listen to what I wish to tell you. Our Highest Good, Jesus, had departed for heaven and is now before his Heavenly Father, pleading for his children and brothers on earth. From his heavenly homeland He looks upon all souls; no one escapes him. And his love is so great that He leaves his mother on earth as the comforter, assistant, instructor and companion of his and my children.

As my Son departed for heaven, I remained together with the Apostles in the cenacle, waiting for the Holy Spirit. They all gathered closely around me and we prayed together; they did nothing without my advice. And when I began to instruct them and share some of the interesting events in my Son's life that they had not known – such as the details of his birth, [the meaning behind] his infant tears, his loving ways [in different circumstances], the things that occurred in Egypt and the so many wonders of our hidden life in Nazareth – oh, how attentive they were in listening to me, and how enraptured they were in hearing of the so many surprises and lessons Jesus imparted to me. For such lessons were, in turn, to serve them.

Since my Son had reserved for me the task of letting the Apostles know how much He loved them, and the details which only his mother knew, He had therefore said

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to them little or nothing about himself. So, my child, I was united with my Apostles more [intimately] than the sun to [its light that illumines] the day. I was the anchor, the rudder and the vessel [of the nascent Church] in which they took refuge to be safe and sheltered from every danger. Therefore, I can say that I delivered the nascent Church upon my maternal lap with my arms as the vessel in which I led her safe to shore, and I continue to do so.

Then the time came for the descent of the Holy Spirit in the cenacle promised by my Son. What a transformation, my child! For those present were enveloped [by the Holy Spirit], and they acquired new knowledge, heroic courage and ardent love. A new life flowed within them, which rendered them brave and courageous in such a way that they scattered throughout the whole world to make the work of Redemption known, and to give their lives for their Master. I remained with beloved John, and was forced to leave Jerusalem as the storm of persecution began.

My dearest child, I still continue to instruct the Church.⁴⁶ There is nothing that descends [from heaven] that does not derive from me; I can say that I pour myself out for love of my children and I nourish them with my maternal milk. Now, during these times, I want to display an even greater love by making known how my whole life was formed in the Kingdom of the Divine Will. So I call

⁴⁶ The original Italian text states, “*Io continuo ancora il mio magistero nella Chiesa*”. Cf. also footnote 63, p. 212.

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you onto my lap and into my maternal arms so that, taking refuge in this vessel,⁴⁷ you may rest assured that you will live in the sea of the Divine Will. A greater grace I could not grant you. So I entreat you, make your mother happy by desiring to live in this ever-so holy Kingdom. And when you see that your will wishes to act on its own, come and take refuge in the safe vessel of my arms, saying to me: “My mother, my will wants to betray me, so I hand it over to you so that you may exchange it for me with the Divine Will.”

Oh, how happy I shall be in saying: “My child is all mine because she lives in the Divine Will.” And I will make the Holy Spirit descend upon your soul, so that in you He may vanquish whatever is purely human; by his refreshing breath He shall reign over you and confirm you in the Divine Will.

The soul:

Instructor of divine truths, today your little child feels her heart filled to the point of bursting out in tears and bathing with them your maternal hands. A veil of sadness invades me, and I fear that I will not profit from your teachings and from your maternal cares that surpass those of any mother. Dear mother, help me, strengthen my

⁴⁷ On this 30th day, Mary refers to herself and her arms as a vessel – a symbol of her maternal protection over the Church. Indeed, the Church’s mystical body, of which we are members, is often depicted as a vessel voyaging to her heavenly homeland.

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weakness; put to flight my fears so that, abandoning myself in your arms, I may rest assured of living completely in the Divine Will.

Aspiration:

Today, to honour me, recite seven *Gloria's* in honour of the Holy Spirit, asking me for his prodigies to be renewed throughout the entire Church.

Exclamation:

Heavenly Mother, pour out into my heart your loving fiery flames to consume me and vanquish from me whatever opposes the Will of God.

Novena to The Divine Mercy

Sixth Day

1220 Today bring to Me the meek and humble souls and the souls of little children, and immerse them in My mercy. These souls most closely resemble My Heart. They strengthened Me during My bitter agony. I saw them as earthly Angels, who would keep vigil at My altars. I pour out upon them whole torrents of grace. Only the humble soul is able to receive My grace. I favor humble souls with My confidence.

1221 Most Merciful Jesus, You Yourself have said, "Learn from Me for I am meek and humble of heart." Receive into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart all meek and humble souls and the souls of little children. These souls send all heaven into ecstasy, and they are the heavenly Father's favorites. They are a sweet-smelling bouquet before the throne of God; God himself takes delight in their fragrance. These souls have a permanent abode in Your Most Compassionate Heart, O Jesus, and they unceasingly sing out a hymn of love and mercy.

1222 A truly gentle and humble soul

Already here on earth the air of paradise breathes, And in the fragrance of her humble heart

The Creator Himself delights.

1223 Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon meek and humble souls, and upon the souls of little children, who are enfolded in the abode which is the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. These souls bear the closest resemblance to Your Son. Their fragrance rises from the earth and reaches Your very throne. Father of mercy and of all goodness, I beg You by the love You bear these souls and by the delight You take in them: bless the whole world, that all souls together may sing out the praises of Your mercy for endless ages. Amen.