

May – Our Lady Undoer Of Knots



The month of May is dedicated by the Catholic Church, to Our Lady. As our heavenly Mother, we pray to Her for our most difficult problems. Devotion to Our Lady as the untier of knots goes back to the Second Century, when St Ireneus of Lyons drew a parallel between Mary and Eve. He showed that Eve's sin of disobedience was loosened by Mary's YES to the angel.

Worldwide faith in Our Lady Undoer of Knots, however, began in the 16 Century, when a German nobleman Wolfe Lagermantel walked miles to a monastery in Augsburg. He wished to pray with Father Rem a Jesuit priest, for reconciliation of his marriage. Father Rem was believed to have apparitions of Mary, under the title of Mother Thrice Admirable. After a month of prayer and veneration, Wolfe brought the knotted satin ribbon that was tied to his and his wife's arm on their wedding day, as a symbol of unity. He gave this to Father Rem as the latter was praying to Our Lady of Sorrows.

As Father Rem lifted the ribbon to Our. lady in prayer, the knots were undone one by one, and the ribbon shone intensely white. Wolfe's marriage continued in happiness. Almost fifty years later, his grandson Father Hieronymus, Canon of St. Peter's and a Doctor of Canon Law, decided to donate to a family altar in the Church of St. Peter. Such donations were a common tradition. He wanted it to represent his family. So, he hired a well-known painter Johann Melchior and commissioned him to use his grandparents' story as a base for Our Lady's painting.

The result is the now famous painting of Our Lady Undoer of Knots. She is shown untying a ribbon, surrounded by twelve stars and two angels helping her. She has the Holy Sprit (dove) above her, and under Her feet, she crushes a serpent (Satan) and stands on a crescent moon(earth). Pope Francis was so impressed by this portrait when he was a priest that he spread the word to all his diocese. He also engraved it on a chalice that he presented to Pope Emeritus Benedict XV1.

Devotion to Our Lady Undoer of knots was widespread throughout the end of the 20 Century, especially in Brazil and Austria. Novenas to Our Lady begin at the end of April. The painting has survived many wars and revolutions and secular opposition. Today it is in St. Peter's Church in Rome.