

LITURGY BYTES

Mary, Mother of God



My reflection for today centers on our dear Mother Mary. Way back in the 4th century, St. Ambrose of Milan used a beautiful title for the Blessed Virgin Mary – “MOTHER OF THE CHURCH.” A few years ago, Pope Francis added a new feast to the Roman calendar to be celebrated on the Monday after Pentecost: the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church. This year it was celebrated on May 24th.

You might be asking, “What does this title mean?” Simply put, it means that Mary is the Mother of the Church; she is united with her Son. The prayer of the Church is devoted to her, and she is the vision of our future. A very good explanation appears in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (par. 963-975).

By the grace of God, the Virgin Mary is our model of faith and charity. She is our advocate and helper, pointing us always to her Son. Also, through the life-giving waters of Baptism, we are entered into union with the Son of God and Son of Mary.

The Mother of God is not adored. Adoration belongs to God alone. However, she is greatly respected and venerated. We tend to seek her protection for all of our needs. There are a great many devotions to the Blessed Mother, as well as many liturgical feasts throughout the year. Each of these feasts draws us into the mystery of Mary which in turn brings us immediately to the mystery of Christ and the Gospel. For us still here on our earthly pilgrimage, Mary is a sign for us of the certain hope and comfort of heaven. For this week, let us ask how often do we seek Mary’s assistance in our lives.

Have a blessed, safe, and healthy week! ~~*Michele Hahn*