

Fiat Mihi Secundum Verbum Tuum

Br. Paul Pierre Maturin

We should never think about perfection with the idea that it is impossible to achieve. Indeed, we will not attain perfection in this life, but everything we do in this life has to be oriented toward our final perfection in the next. All of our actions are deemed good or bad in relation to that final perfection. The final end that we hope to achieve is union with God in the beatific vision. Christ tells us to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect. We all fall short of the glory of God, but we must strive for perfection. There are examples for us to follow; the chief among them is Our Blessed Lady.

Our Lady is the crown jewel of all creation. She is the most perfect of all of humanity besides our Blessed Lord. She is worthy of all imitation. Do not look at the perfection of our Lady and think that Her virtues are impossible to imitate. It is because She is perfect that we must imitate Her. She shows us how to live most humanly. Sin and vice happen to us but are destructive, not things we identify with our humanity. If I want to make a chair and buy a set of instructions, I do not purchase instructions for how to make a broken chair, but instead a good chair. In the same way, we do not look toward sinful behavior as a model for human life. Instead, we look towards those who lived lives of heroic virtue and perfection, especially our Lady. The greatest virtue of our Lady, as witnessed in the feast of the Annunciation, is Her humility.

When the angel Gabriel appeared to the Blessed Mother, greeting her with the Angelic salutation, she was troubled by the words of the Angel. The woman who had never known sin or been inclined to it was troubled by the praise of the angel. In Her heart, she knew that all of Her glory and greatness had come from God. During the most important event in all of history, in which She was to play the key role, our Lady does not seek Her own glory, but God's. *Fiat Mihi Secundum Verbum Tuum*.

The Blessed Mother is so contrary to worldliness that She, above all, the world does not understand. She stands in opposition to the proud and ambitious, vain and licentious, deceitful and capricious. It is through Her they are scorned and embarrassed. No power of hell can bear the sound of Her name, and by Her heal is the head of the serpent crushed. This little girl of Nazareth is greater than all the prophets and patriarchs combined. She is victorious in Her lowliness and conquers in Her meekness. She is the exemplar of what it means to be a Christian and the perfect disciple of our Lord. The Lord loves her so much, yet no conceit is found in Her.

We must seek to imitate Her in humility, ready to put ourselves aside for the work of the Lord. We do not imitate Her in the grand things but in the little things. After the Annunciation, She immediately hastens to aid Her cousin Elizabeth, putting Her needs second. *Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*. Sanctity is found in perfecting the little things expected of us and doing them in great love. Do all things in humility and meekness, imitating the blessed Lady, Queen of Heaven and Earth.