

Encouragement Encouragement

May 2020 – Issue 106

Mary.... The Intercessor

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To thee do we send up our sighs morning and weeping in this vale of tears.....

These words of the 'Memorare'... 'Remember oh most Blessed Virgin Mary'... are an apt start to the Month of Mary. Our hearts go out to all who are grieving, sorrowful and feeling forsaken in this time of anguish and pain.

Mary our Mother speaks for us, intercedes for us and will always do so. We are celebrating this Easter time with so many mixed feelings but in all this there is the 'Hope of the Victory' that Jesus Risen brings to our lives. The pandemic has brought many thoughts to our hearts, but it is also a time to reflect on what Mary our Mother does for us. Like any Mother she protects and speaks for her children with great love. She rejoices when we ask for help as again, any mother does, for it is to acknowledge who she is to us. It brings any mother a sense of purpose when she can assist her children in any way... Mary shed many tears at the Cross and surely, she also spent much time in rejoicing at seeing her Son Rise from the dead. As we start May we can ponder what she can bring to us through her Son. Interestingly May ends with the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. She filled with the Holy Spirit, from birth, shares this great action of the Enlightener with the Apostles.

Our Lady is present throughout the Gospel; indeed she is mentioned more than anyone else except St. Peter by name. The Annunciation, Visitation to Elizabeth, The Birth of Jesus, Presentation in the Temple, at Cana and finding Him in the Temple and later looking for Him when he was speaking to the crowds and finally at the Crucifixion, show how closely she was part of His whole life. Then surely, she saw Him when He rose but we know she was present at Pentecost with the Apostles and disciples. A Lady used to walking through Sorrow and Joy but always remembering who her Son was, a realisation that probably grew with her years and watching and listening. She knows and understands her Son better than anyone and she knows how to reach him and speak on anyone's behalf. Did Jesus not do what she asked at the Marriage feast? Yet she not only does this, but she wants all to follow her Son and points to Him. She, like her Son, will always listen to the broken hearted but also to those that Society thinks of as outcasts. Moreover, she looks for the lost and those even who are abusive to her or to Jesus or the Church.

The photo shows what looks like a happy family.....



AND indeed later it became so. BUT IT IS NOT THE COMPLETE STORY..... Born Bruno Cornachiolla in Rome on 9th May 1913, he was born into a poor and violent family and he was abused physically as a child, often begging for food. He was found by a good woman who fed him and started to teach him about God. Although a Catholic he knew very little of his faith... He then made his first Holy Communion and asked Our Lady for help as his Mother. Instead returning home to be reconciled with his own mother he was thrown down the stairs and ran away. He got work as a railways worker and eventually married Iolanda under protest in a Sacristy. . But he raged against the Church and did not permit her, a devout Catholic, much leeway. He also became violent toward her. Had he had any good example to follow..? He then left her to go to fight in the Spanish Civil War. There he met other Christians who persuaded him to become a Seventh Day Adventist. Returning home in spite of protests he demanded that Iolanda joined him. She had bid him to wait and do the First Fridays but he was adamant. Life was difficult for the family as three children was born to them. His fury against the Church continued and further he became a Communist and Mason. He planned to kill the Pope Pius XII even inscribing the knife with death threats that he had bought in readiness.

But Our Mother had other plans. Jesus chooses whom He wishes and rarely the 'perfect' candidates for His mission. On the 12th April 1947 he was off work and planned to take the children out. He missed his train and so decided to go to Tre Fontana, three springs, where it is though St Paul was beheaded but was also in an area with a bad reputation, but the ground gave the children space to play. He sent them off to play while he read his unorthodox bible, taking notes as to how to make another attack on the church with a talk the next day. His children had lost a ball and asked him to help find it. His youngest was not to be found and finally at an entrance to a cave he found him kneeling transfixed at one spot saying only.. 'beautiful lady .. beautiful lady'. He tried to call him but the child

O COME O HOLY SPIRIT AND FILL THE HEARTS OF YOUR FAITHFUL

was not answering. Then the other two children Isola his daughter, 10, and Carlo, 7, and Gianfranco, 4 .. were all kneeling saying the same thing. He tried to move them by force but they were of an impossible weight. He stood angry, confused, and dumbfounded. Suddenly he was thrown into darkness and then an invisible force seem to take something from his eyes like a flame and bright light and illumination followed. He too saw Mary. Her radiant beauty overwhelmed him and he too feel on his knees. He then had what perhaps was a Pauline experience as he saw all that he was, his sins and made a radical change to his life there and then. Our Lady challenged him with these words 'Why are you persecuting me.? Enough of this..' She told him that she was 'The Lady of Revelation'.

His life changed radically and completely at thirty three. She imparted to him many messages and prophetic utterances for the world and the church in subsequent visions but there is no space to relay them here. They are available in public media. He went on the meet Pope Pius and showed him the knife he was going to use and begged for forgiveness.

The place of apparition soon began to grow and now a small chapel is there with plans to expand. He himself spent his life in Catechesis setting up an Apostolate of Lay Faithful and he continued his work on the railway too. There is also a community of Sisters dedicated to the way that Our Lady described herself... Missionaries of Divine Revelation who in their distinctive green habit are seen showing people around the Vatican.

Our Lady's call to conversion was perhaps the central call of the messages and the conversion of Sinners. Pope Pius XII was thought to take heed of the message about the Assumption proclaiming the Dogma in 1950 (as well as that of the child, Gilles...). In 1997 on the anniversary of the apparition, Pope John Paul II gave the shrine the title of 'Holy Mary of the Third Millennium at Tre Fontana'. Many miracles of conversion have/ are happening there... good fruit in a place which was poor soil.

As the month ends with Pentecost a little story of how this CAME TO BE IN THIS Encouragement. There is so much to pray about at this time and I wondered what to say that would bring hope to readers. Picking up my 'Morning and Evening' prayer, an older one, but to hand a few little pictures fell out, mementos of friends and family. But on top fell out a white envelope - to my surprise, unopened. Inside was a picture of Our Lady of Revelation and a little sachet of soil. I had a feeling I had seen this before but could not go further with information. That evening reading from a book that I had nearly finished called 'Scandalous Mercy' by Sr. Emmanuel Maillard, to my astonishment the next chapter was on 'Tre Fontana'. Next day I read a little more and felt that it is truly a message for our time together with the

many Apparitions of Our Mother world wide In Lourdes, Fatima, and Medjugorje... can we afford to stay indifferent to the cry of the poor, those alienated from the truth, those who seek God, those who suffer so many afflictions. Can we not use the gifts of the Spirit that were imparted to us at our Confirmation and that we can remember to use at Pentecost. Mary was there with the Apostles and Disciples. **We are** disciples.. can we not follow her lead and bring people to Jesus Himself? The world is hungry for truth and love... Can we hear her warnings...?

Halina Holman



Pope Francis ... Easter Vigil

The Lord's gift of **courage** can only be received by rolling away even the slightest stone we may have placed before our hearts. The light of the Risen Lord can thus penetrate our deepest fears. Just as Jesus preceded His disciples to Galilee, so "the Lord goes before us". It is encouraging to know that He walks ahead of us in life and in death. He goes before us to Galilee, that is, to the place which for Him and His disciples evoked the idea of daily life, family and work. Jesus wants us to bring hope there, to our everyday life. For the disciples, Galilee was also the place of remembrance, for it was the place where they were first called. Returning to Galilee means remembering that we have been loved and called by God.

Rome 12th April 2020

Feasts Days in May

- St Joseph. The Worker
- 2nd St. Athanasius, Bishop
- 3rd Fourth Sunday of Easter
- 4th The English Martyrs
- 10th Fifth Sunday of Easter
- 13th Our Lady of Fatima
- 14th St. Matthias, Apostle
- 17th Sixth Sunday of Easter
- 18th St. John I, Pope
- 21st Ascension of the Lord
- 22nd St. Rita
- 24th Seventh Sunday of Easter
- 25th St. Bede the Ven., Priest
- 26th St. Philip Neri, Priest
- 27th St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bp.
- 30th St. Joan of Arc
- 31st Pentecost Sunday



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