



Ta' Pinu Shrine

Our Lady, Queen of the Family

A CALL TO PRAYER



Mary, Mother of God! Our Mother, too!

♦ The two truths which stand out like mountain peaks in the chain of revelation concerning Our Blessed Lady, and around which cluster all other truths we hold about her, are **her divine maternity** and **her fullness of grace**, both of which are affirmed in the Gospels and in the Councils of the Church.
- **Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange, OP** - *The Mother of the Saviour*

♦ Our Lady's greatest title is that of the "Mother of God" and, in view of that, she was created "full of grace". "To be the worthy Mother of God, Mary needed to receive fullness of grace", - **St Thomas** (111a, q.27, a.5 corp. et ad2)

"Mary's role in the sanctification of the Christian has been beautifully described in the writings of St. Louis Mary de Montfort. Here is a synthesis of his teaching:

- all Christians are called to perfection and sanctity;
- to reach perfection it is necessary to practice and perfect the virtues;
- to practice the virtues we need the help of God's grace;
- **To obtain God's grace it is necessary to receive it through Mary.**

The reasons for the last statement are as follows:

- 1.Of all God's creatures, only Mary found grace before God, both for herself and for others;
- 2.Mary gave birth to the Author of grace and is therefore called the Mother of grace;
- 3.In giving Mary his only begotten Son, the eternal Father gave Mary all graces;
- 4.God appointed Mary as dispenser of grace, and by reason of this office she gives grace to whom she wishes and when she wishes;
- 5.As in the natural order a child must have a father and a mother, so in the order of grace the Christian has God as the father and Mary as the mother;
- 6.Since Mary formed the Head of the Mystical Body, she should also form the members;
- 7.Mary was and still remains the spouse of the Holy Spirit;
8. As in the natural order the child is nourished by its mother, in the supernatural order, Mary nourishes and strengthens her children; and
- 9.He who finds Mary, finds Jesus, who is with her always."

"As a result, she is our Mother in the order of grace."

With these few words Vatican II (*On the Church* # 61) gave us a brilliant theology of the Motherhood of Our Lady, and a marvellous help to understand the motherhood of all Mothers.

To follow it, we need to read the two sentences that come before it: "The Blessed Virgin, predestined from eternity along with the Incarnation of the Divine Word, as the Mother of God, on this earth was the gracious Mother of the Divine Redeemer, His associate more than others, in a singular way, and the humble maid-servant of the Lord. In conceiving Christ, in bringing Him forth, in nourishing Him, in presenting Him to the Father in the Temple, in suffering with her Son as He died on the cross, she cooperated in the work of the Saviour, in an altogether singular way, by obedience, faith, hope and burning love, to restore the supernatural life to souls. **"As a result, Mary is our Mother in the order of grace."** - An ordinary Mother does two things to gain that glorious title: she shares in bringing a new life into being, she takes care of that life so long as she is needed, as long as she is willing and able.

In ordinary human affairs, there comes a time, when the Mother is not really much needed, for the child grows to adult stature. But in the spiritual life, we remain children - for unless we become as little children we shall not inherit the kingdom. Or, to put it more clearly, we always stand in the need of grace as long as we have not yet entered the Mansions of Our Father.

That grace, every grace, comes to us through Her, for, as Vatican II taught (62), **SHE IS THE MEDIATRIX.**

The Mother of the Head would be the Mother of ALL the members. The Mother of the Vine would be the Mother of the branches." THIS WAS TO BE BROUGHT TO LIGHT, WITH IMMENSE PAIN, ONLY ON THE HILL OF CALVARY.



Annunciation by Paolo de Matteis, 1712.
The white lily in the angel's hand is symbolic of Mary's purity in Marian art.



Assumption by Peter P. Rubens- 1626 AD

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church

CHRIST'S FAITHFULS

"Among the Christian faithful by divine institution there exist in the Church sacred ministers, who are also called clerics in law, and other Christian faithful who are also called laity."

In both groups there are those Christian faithful who, professing the evangelical counsels, are consecrated to God and so serve the Church's saving mission (cf. CIC, can. 207 § 1, 2).

To proclaim the faith and to plant his reign, Christ sends his apostles and their successors. He gives them a share in his own mission. From him they receive the power to act in his person.

The Lord made **St. Peter** the visible foundation of his Church. He entrusted the keys of the Church to him

The **bishop of the Church of Rome**, successor to St. Peter, is "head of the college of bishops, the Vicar of Christ and Pastor of the universal Church on earth" (CIC, can. 331).

The Pope enjoys, by divine institution, "supreme, full, immediate, and universal power in the care of souls" (CD 2).

The Bishops, established by the Holy Spirit, succeed the apostles. They are "the visible source and foundation of unity in their own particular Churches" (LG 23).

Helped by **the priests, their co-workers**, and by **the deacons**, the bishops have the duty of authentically teaching the faith, celebrating divine worship, above all the Eucharist, and guiding their Churches as true pastors. Their responsibility also includes concern for all the Churches, with and under the Pope.

Your fruit shows what you are: Whatever our works are--good or evil--we are, for we are the trees and they the fruits. They show what each of us is. *St. Augustine*



Gospel Reflection:

"He was amazed at their lack of faith" Mk 6:6

When Jesus returned to his hometown, he went straight to the synagogue to teach his town-people. At first sight, they were astonished as they heard him. But soon after, many doubts came to their minds and instead of accepting his teaching and practice it in their everyday life, they began asking, "Where did the man get all this" to the extent that **"They would not accept him"**.

Many people don't like to know the **truth**. because truth hurts them. They would rather not know the truth than not accepting or denying it! Certain people, when they smell that some truth in their life is coming to light, would start a war against the person who presents the truth. The prophets are among the first examples. Then came Jesus and the apostles, followed by so many martyrs. However Jesus was never afraid of doing this and his example fortified his disciples as well.. In fact when Jesus saw that was high time for the Twelve to be trained to proclaim the "Truth", he "began to send them out in pairs giving them authority over unclean spirits". But he recommended that they keep themselves humble and poor and do their mission without self interest. Because where there is self-interest in religious missions, there isn't God's blessing.

On their return, Jesus was very pleased with the outcome, and immediately invited them to have some rest and something to eat, because they were so busy in fulfilling his order that they had no 'time—not even to eat'.

However Jesus did not either abandon the crowds who were so eager to listen to his teaching. As soon as he saw the large crowds that followed the apostles, eager to listen to the Word of God, 'he took pity on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd' and set himself to teach them.

But God does not provide only the spiritual food. For as "man does not live on bread alone" but needs also the Word of God, so also, together with His "Word" the crowds need bread for their physical health.

So when Jesus went to the other side of the sea of Galilee and noticed the crowds approaching said to Phillip where they could buy some bread for them to eat. According to Phillip, two hundred Denarii were not enough to feed such a crowd. Then came up Andrew, saying that there was a boy who had five barley loaves and two fish; but those loaves and fish were to be shared between so many.

At this news, Jesus ordered the Apostles to make the people sit down, took the loaves, gave thanks, and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, each taking as much as he wanted.

This miracle gives us two points for reflection;

Firstly **"God always provides food for his people during a time of need; Secondly as Jesus performed the great miracle of feeding over five thousand people with five barley loaves and two fish so also he feeds everyday those who love him**, through the miracle of the EUCHARIST, each time they go to Holy Mass and receive Holy

Communion. **Don't let Jesus be amazed at our lack of appreciation of such a big Miracle -**

Don't let Him be amazed at our lack of attendance at Holy Mass neither to receive Holy Communion.

So how do you convert your friends and family? By Greg Willits, the Catholic next door.

Around late 90's/early 2000's, I was experiencing a re-awakening of my faith, and an absolutely unquenchable desire to save souls for Jesus Christ. Like many people, I had friends and family members who had long ago fallen away from the faith, but everyday at my job I worked with people who had no faith at all.

One of my co-workers was a programmer named Ram, and we went to lunch together frequently where one day I learned that Ram really had no idea who this Jesus Christ guy was. Here was my opportunity. *I* was going to convert Ram. Over the course of sweet and sour chicken, *I* would get Ram to give his life to Christ.

So I laid it all out. We're all sinners. We needed redemption. Jesus died on the Cross for our sins so we could go to heaven. It's all right there in the Bible. Why wouldn't Ram want that? But he didn't.

He thought it was a nice story, but meant nothing to him. ' This was my first experience of eating a major heaping helping of humble pie when it came to sharing my faith. Over time, I had similar conversations with other friends and family members and they all had the same response: crickets. No interest. Nothing. Over time – and thanks be to God – I realized that my first problem here is that I wasn't truly trying to convert Ram for Ram's sake, or even better, for God's sake. *I was doing it for my own sake, to take credit for it*, as if I had a sales quota that had to be met. **We seek conversion of souls for the sake of the kingdom of God**, so that others choose something not just because we believe it's a good thing, but because God loves them and wants them to choose God.

So the conclusion I finally came to was that perhaps my witty words of wisdom were not what Ram needed!

What would have made a greater impact would be for Ram to see Christ's light shining through me. Because when we allow the joy of Christ to shine from us, that light of Christ is what will draw people closer to Him, far more than words. St. Philip Neri said, "First let a little love find entrance into their hearts, and the rest will follow."

Through our loving actions, our bold loving witness, our lovingly patient example, and sometimes by just lovingly keeping our mouths shut, we can often have major impact on the lives of others. Or rather – **Christ THROUGH us** – can.

Rather than just seizing opportunities to speak, pray that the Holy Spirit will provide the right moments, and the right words to say.

More than anything, keep in mind that *it's not you that will convert anyone's heart. It's Jesus Christ...*

listening to our prayers and working through willing and loving disciples, that will do the heavy living !!!

Message of Appreciation from Monsignor Benedict Camilleri

Dear Friends,

Last month, we have celebrated the

132th anniversary of Our Lady's Call to Carmela Grima, and the 25th year since the Maltese Group hailing from Gozo celebrated this anniversary here in Melbourne.

Thank God and Our heavenly Mother Mary, it was a big success and I was pleased to see so many of the Ethnic groups participating in this Celebration. I wish to thank Msgr. Joselito Asis who brought with him, a large Filipino Group as well as the Filipino Choir of St. Francis. I also thank Mr. Garnet Jacob. who together with his group, lead the Rosary and singing during the Procession. I thank also the representatives of the other groups who were also present for this Service. Thank You also to the Brothers of the "Alliance of the Two Hearts" who served at the Altar.

Now our next Major Celebration will be that of the Assumption of Our Lady. To be held on Saturday 15th of August. Hopefully, once again, all the Ethnic Groups will honour their conditions as well as their duties towards their countrymen's spiritual welfare by encouraging them to attend this special celebration in honour of our common heavenly Mother. Mary. **God Bless you all. †Msgr Benedict.**

Date	Liturgical Celebrations for July 2015
Wed 1 st July 2015	9th of 15 Devotional Wednesdays in preparation for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin. Rosary and Holy Mass starting at 11.00a.m.
Sat 4 th July 2015	First Saturday of the Month Devotion at 2.00p.m Rosary procession, Confession , Holy Mass and Benediction
Wed 8 th July 2015	10th of 15 Devotional Wednesdays in preparation for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin.
Sun 12 th June 2015	Our Lady of Good Health, Vailankanni From 1.45 p.m. Confession, Rosary, Benediction, Holy Mass and Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wed 15 th July 2015	11th of 15 Devotional Wednesdays .
Wed 22 th July 2015	12th of 15 Devotional Wednesdays in preparation for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin
Sat 25 th July 2015	Couples For Christ Day Retreat
Wed 29 th July 2015	13th of 15 Devotional Wednesdays in preparation for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin
	Main Event for August 2015
SAT 15TH AUG 2015 MAJOR CELEBRATION	FEAST Of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass Led by Bishop Hilton Deakin Rosary- Procession, Holy Mass & Benediction From 2.00p.m All Ethnic Groups are requested to attend.





My Conversion Story

*This truly inspirational story is about John A. Bartort who in his teens, rebelled badly. He got married, after an accident became a TIO paraplegic. Sadly soon after, he felt abandoned by man, but not by Jesus. Had God forgotten him as well? He continued his search for an answer and had an awesome encounter in a Catholic Church... **"Be still and know that I am God."***

This is final part of our story, a continuation from last month's issue

When I prayed that night the first thing I asked was that God would forgive my unloving attitude. I then phoned up Father Alan and asked his forgiveness. He said it was not necessary as he understood and any time I wanted to chat about anything to just let him know. He finished by saying, "God bless and keep you, you are in my prayers". Next day we went to a jumble sale and another little nun came up to me (*I never found out her name, but still pray for her and thank God for her*). She gently put her hand on my shoulder, smiled and said, **"God bless you. Do you know that the love of Jesus is in your eyes?"** This was getting to be much too much for me. Before I left her she gave me a little paperweight in wood that I later found out had the images of our Lady of Perpetual Succour on it. I took it simply because I didn't know how to respond to such kindness and obvious love without causing offense. Some weeks went by. Now I knew that Catholics loved Jesus too but what was new to me was the fact that they honoured Mary as being someone very special. I started going to Holy Mass on Sundays. I didn't understand most of it but I knew that Jesus was truly there and that at the consecration when everyone knelt I saw love and worship in the congregation's eyes. To be honest, I just wanted to get out of my wheelchair and prostrate myself at this point of the Mass as it felt so holy. I was amazed at how much Scripture was used all through the Mass, in fact it all appeared to be from the Bible which added to my confusion. Much later I saw a notice on the bulletin board saying there was going to be an RCIA course and everyone was welcome to come and learn what the Catholic faith really taught. I let Father Alan know I would like to go and he was delighted.

It is important here to say that not once did he force his beliefs on me and in fact at times even tried to dissuade me, but always said, **"Seek God for yourself what He wants you to do"**

To cut a long story short I was taught what the Church really believed and my desire was to receive my blessed Lord's body and blood. I knew this had to wait until I was confirmed and received into the Catholic faith.

Then another mishap occurred. I was due to be received into the church on Easter 1995; however, another medical problem had flared up so badly it meant I had to have surgery. By the time I recovered, Easter would have come and gone! My longing was so great that I half asked "can I not be received into the church earlier as I cannot receive any other sacraments I have been taught about?" I said it was unfair that I would miss the sacrament of the sick before surgery again and that reconciliation, confirmation and most importantly- to be able to partake in our Lord's body and blood with my Christian family there.

February 11th there was a special meeting in the church as the relics of Our Lady of Guadalupe were coming. When I went up to be blessed while the others received communion, Father Alan said, "would you like to be received into the church tomorrow?" My smile was a mile wide "Yes, please!" I said. It is more than I could believe. Father had phoned the Bishop to obtain this special permission and Thank God it was granted! I went home and told Marian (I should state here that Marian has been 100 % supportive and encouraged me in my quest. She was delighted. I phoned my parents and what shook me was my dad, who has since passed away 'may he rest in peace.' said, "Yes, he would like to come".

The next day was just full of blessings and great emotion. It was Sunday February 12, 1995, I was received into the faith that is so precious to remember the loving look from Father Alan as he held the Host up. 'The Body of Christ' and then after he offered me the chalice 'The Blood of Christ.' My reply to both statements was, "Amen," I humbly and joyfully received the sacrament at last. This is still the centre of my Christian life and I truly thank God for it. To-day my life is central to our Lord Jesus Christ, especially the privilege to receive Him at Holy Mass.

I love the sacrament of reconciliation. It is still embarrassing but then Jesus is there always waiting to forgive and restore through His Priest. NOW *I am a fellow pilgrim on my way to meet my Blessed Lord and His Blessed Mother.* I have learned that I am part of God's marvellous family and grieve at the disunity there is in His body. I am persuaded that I have something to do for Jesus. Something that I can do (***each of us has a unique ministry***).

Mine is to tell of His marvellous love wherever I am, either physically or mainly now on the IRC (Internet Relay chat). **Please pray for me that God's will may be achieved in my life'**

John A. Bartort

Grays, Essex, Great Britain

My soul hates three kinds of men, and I am greatly offended at their life;

A beggar who is proud,

A rich man who is a liar, and an adulterous old man who lack good sense. *Wisdom 25:2*

Our Lady Ta' Pinu Shrine

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