



Ta' Pinu Shrine

Our Lady, Queen of the Family

A CALL TO PRAYER



Under the mantle of Mary, Mother of Christians

Our Lady is the great model of the Christian spiritual life.

The Second Vatican Council was very clear on the purpose of the Christian life: All Christians are called to be saints. We are not supposed to hope to just squeak into heaven by way of purgatory, but rather to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength (see Lk 22:37). Jesus said that if you love Him, you will obey Him. Then the Blessed Trinity will come and dwell within you (see Jn 14:23).

Who has lived this to the full? Someone who, by cooperating with God's grace, loves and obeys God so completely that God comes to dwell within her. Sound like someone we all know and love?

When Jesus described an obedient disciple, He was giving us a spiritual portrait of His mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary. How do we know? Because God came and dwelled within her as in no one else. She is the immaculate Mother of the Son, Daughter of the Father, and Spouse of the Holy Spirit. God so loved her that the Son took up residence within her very womb for nine months. The Spirit overshadowed her. The Lord is with her, and she is full of grace.



Annunciation by Anton R Meng The white lily in the angel's hand is symbolic of Mary's purity in Marian art.



Immaculate Conception by P. Rubens- 1627 AD

Mary is the model for us all. She is the Mother of Christians, a role that's made very clear in Scripture:

A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. ... She gave birth to a son, a male child, destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod. ... Then the dragon became angry with the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring, those who keep God's commandments and bear witness to Jesus (Rev 56:5, 9, 5¹).

Mary is the Queen of Heaven and Earth : The Assumption of Mary, the Mother of God, is special for all of humanity because it is a concrete witness to that which gives us confidence that our expectations of Eternal Life are rewarded. Human hope is that our life, as we know it, is not ended in the here and now. Far too much focus on life as ending with the darkness of the grave. Far too many look at life and its challenges as indicative of hopelessness rather than a call to us to believe in what God Himself revealed to Abraham and his posterity and finally in His Son Jesus Christ.

Darkness is all around us, many find themselves low in hope because of circumstances that ring more of despair than of hope. Families are being driven apart, division in the Church and in much of society show that there is no positive and wholesome leadership which points out with a prophetic voice that God **IS** and all are called to be one in Him the **"I AM."** Jesus is proclaimed by many of His followers as the Light and Hope of the world but they do not live His commands. He declared long ago that these are not too difficult to live, yet many treat these commandments of God as impossible to live and are not the sure guide to a life of peace and happiness.



Why?? because God Himself is being denied as the beginning and end of human life. The constant today by the agnostic, the atheist, is to demand that believers have no right to force them to believe in One whom they do not see or know, thus to make people believe that a Creator is not needed, that God is not Provident or caring, that the powerful people of the world can and do take care of human lives better than believers.

Over and over again, through the past centuries, especially since the middle of the nineteenth century, humanists have tried to convince others that we do not need God but in their ways and doings, they act like gods, as controllers of all things seen and unseen. The dictators killed people they judged did not measure up to their ideal -intellectually, physically, emotionally, relationally and more - and eliminated the undesirable (by their standards) as they determined to make the perfect society, designed in their image and likeness.

In the midst of all this arrogance, there is one person who stands out as the perfect, ideal and truly the shining star in all the common sense of that word. Yet she is ignored and vilified because she always points to Truth, a truth they painfully work to evaporate because they are a people of the lie and truth annoys them. This singular person is the one who came to know God in her mind, heart, soul and will. With the least shade of thought to sin allied; Woman! above all women glorified, Our tainted nature's solitary boast."

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, as we celebrate the feast day in honour of the Virgin Mary, at whose Assumption the Angels rejoice and praise the Son of God.

Mary, in her single-mindedness, her undivided heart, her purity of soul and her united will with the Father's will is the one who reminds humankind of its destiny as well as its beginning, for she was always one with God in His righteousness. So states one antiphon from a Mass for the common of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

"Blessed are you, O Virgin Mary, who bore the Creator of all things. You became the Mother of your Maker, and you remain ever a virgin."

Her Virginity means that no corporeal or secular pleasure ever held sway in Mary's life. This reality certainly urges our age to return to the virtue that gains the hope of eternal glory.

Thus **the Assumption and the Crowning of Mary as Queen present hope to a generation that desires to move from darkness into God's marvellous Light — HIS GLORY, HIS EVER LASTING LOVE.**

A Marian Reflection By Chris Sparks (Writer/Editor)

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church

CHRIST'S FAITHFULS- LAITY & CONSECRATED LIFE

"The characteristic of the lay state being a life led in the midst of the world and of secular affairs, lay people are called by God to make of their apostolate, through the vigour of their Christian spirit, a leaven in the world" (AA 2 § 2).

Lay people share in Christ's priesthood: ever more united with him, they exhibit the grace of Baptism and Confirmation in all dimensions of their personal family, social and ecclesial lives, and so fulfill the call to holiness addressed to all the baptized.

By virtue of their prophetic mission, lay people "are called . . . to be witnesses to Christ in all circumstances and

at the very heart of the community of mankind" (GS 43 § 4)

By virtue of their kingly mission, lay people have the power to uproot the rule of sin within themselves and in the world, by their self-denial and holiness of life (cf. LG 36).

The life consecrated to God is characterized by the public profession of the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience, in a stable state of life recognized by the Church.

Already destined for him through Baptism, the person who surrenders himself to the God he loves above all else thereby consecrates himself more intimately to God's service and to the good of the whole Church.

Quote: The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, but the prayer of the upright is his delight (Prov. 15:8)



Gospel Reflection : "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me shall never hunger". (Jn.6:35)



This month, apart from the solemnity of the Assumption, the Church concentrates on the "bread from heaven", "The Holy Eucharist", from where the Church draws her life, the heart of the mystery of the Church, founded by Jesus Christ. We can find Jesus, our redeemer anywhere, in the Church, on the street, at home, on the bus and where ever we might be. But we can never find the way he is in the Holy Eucharist during Mass or in the Tabernacle!. I feel that we cannot find a better explanation about this that that given to us by St, John Paul II expressed in his Encyclical Letter, "***Ecclesia de Eucharistia***".

St. John Paul II tells us, "To contemplate Jesus involves being able to recognize him wherever he manifests himself, in the many forms of presence, but above all in the living sacrament of his body and his blood. The Church draws her life from Christ in the Eucharist; by him she is fed and by him she is enlightened. The Eucharist is both a mystery of faith and, "a mystery of light". Whenever the Church celebrates the Eucharist, the faithful, in some way relive the experience of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus: "their eyes were opened and they recognized him". (Lk.24:31)

From it the Church draws her life. From this "living bread" she draws her nourishment.

The Eternal High Priest who by the blood of his Cross entered the eternal sanctuary, thus gives back to the Creator and Father all creation redeemed. He does go through the priestly ministry of the Church to the glory of the Most Holy Trinity. Truly this is the *mysterium fidei* which is accomplished in the Eucharist: the world which came forth from the hands of God the Creator now returns to him redeemed by Christ.

"I myself, in the first years of my apostolic ministry in the chair of Peter, wrote the Apostolic Letter ***Dominicae Cenae*** (24 Feb,1980) In which I discussed some aspects of the Eucharistic mystery and its importance for the life of those who are its ministers. Today I take up anew the thread of that argument, with even greater emotion and gratitude in my heart, echoing as it were the word of the Psalmist: "What shall I render to the Lord for all this bounty to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord". (comm.)
This should apply to each and every one of us!

Certainly, *the Liturgical reform inaugurated by the Council* has greatly contributed to a more conscious, active and fruitful participation in the Holy Eucharist of the Altar on the part of the faithful. In many places, *adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* is also an important practice and becomes an inexhaustible source of holiness.

Unfortunately, alongside these lights, *there are also shadows*. In some places the practice of Eucharistic adoration has been almost completely abandoned. In various parts of the Church abuses have occurred, leading to confusion with regarding the sound faith and Catholic doctrine concerning this wonderful sacrament.

At times one encounters an extremely reductive understanding of the Eucharistic mystery. Stripped of its sacrificial meaning, it is celebrated as if it were simply a fraternal banquet.



Be still in the presence of the LORD, and wait patiently for Him to act. Don't worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes.-Psalm 37:7

The believers are called to trust in the Lord and to hold fast to the faith once offered to the saints, for our hope is in Christ. The believer is called upon to delight in the things of God, for those are the qualities of life that have everlasting joy, eternal purpose and heavenly rewards. We are to maintain our faith in the power and promises of God, for He will vindicate all His children and His justice



Looking in the mirror, all I see is me.
Nothing exceptional, but I am special.
No matter what age, I will always be a child.
For I am a child of God.

I do not desire to be the one who turns heads.
Nor do I desire to be the one who gets ahead.
But I do desire to be the one drawn to Thee.
For I do desire that other's see Christ in me.

I am just flesh and bones,
a body that will soon just waste away.
But I gaze at myself and Lord I do pray...
that You will fill me with Your gentle Spirit,
so that I may show other's that You are the only Way.

I pray You place many on my daily path,
and give words that reflect a humble heart.
May I plant seeds of faith that allow them to see,
You Lord, who has loved them from the start.

Oh, let me be a reflection of Your love Lord,
open their eye's so they may see.
I desire nothing more than to allow You to
glorify Yourself through me.

-Jo Wilmer
"M" Words and the Christian Woman

A Message of Appreciation

Dear Friends,
On 25th July 2015, our Marian Centre received a renewed injection of Youth through the work of the Holy Spirit. The members of Couples for Christ-Australia Community gathered at O. L. Ta ' Pinu Shrine for their Annual Retreat Day led by Mr & Mrs Alex Celestino.

It was a wonderful experience to witness the energetic faith within the CFCA family. Young and old- men, women and children came to spend the day reflecting on God's presence in their life. After a spiritually enriched day, filled with well guided family-focused activities, the CFCA family packed the church and joined me to conclude their retreat day with Holy Mass We heartfully thank them for visiting us. We do hope to see them and other communities back for more of those events in future .

Mmgr Benedict Camilleri.



Date	Liturgical Celebrations for August 2015
Sat 1st August 2015	First Saturday of the Month Devotion at 2.00p.m Rosary procession, Confession , Holy Mass and Benediction
Sun 2nd , 16th & 30th August	Our Lady of Lanka Oratory Private Family prayer day
Wed 5th August 2015	14th of 15 Devotional Wednesdays in preparation for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin. Rosary and Holy Mass starting at 11.00a.m.
Wed 12th August 2015	15th Devotional Wednesdays in preparation for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin.
SAT 15TH AUG 2015 MAJOR CELEBRATION	From 2.00p.m FEAST of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass Led by Bishop EM. Hilton Deakin Rosary- Procession, Holy Mass & Benediction All Ethnic Groups are requested to attend.
PLEASE NOTE 15th August	THIS is a DAY OF OBLIGATION WE ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND MASS ON BOTH SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
Sun 30th August 2015	Prayers at Our Lady of Fatima Oratory followed by Holy mass from 9.30 a.m.
	Main Event for September 2015
SAT 12TH SEPTEMBER	Feast of Our Lady of La Vang Holy Mass followed by Rosary Procession from 11a.m
SUN 13TH SEPTEMBER	Feast of Our Lady of Good Health, Vailankanni from 1.45 p.m. Rosary Procession, Benediction, Holy Mass & Divine Mercy Chaplet
SUN 20TH SEPTEMBER	Feast of Our Lady of Grace & Padre Pio of Pietrelcina Rosary, Adoration, from 1.00p.m. followed by Holy Mass and Benediction Rosary procession to the Oratory.

Furthermore the necessity of the ministerial priesthood, grounded in apostolic succession is at times obscured and the sacramental nature of the Eucharist is reduced to its mere effectiveness as a form of proclamation. How can we not express profound grief at all this? The Eucharist is too grave a gift to tolerate ambiguity and depreciation.

"The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed", (1Cor.11:21), instituted the Eucharistic Sacrifice in his body and blood. The words of the Apostle Paul bring us back to the dramatic setting in which the Eucharist was born.

Dear friends, let us appreciate this extremely holy and useful gift for our salvation, Jesus left us before leaving this world, and let us show him that we have a burning wish that after uniting ourselves with him here, we join him in heaven



A Chinese Girl

A True Story That Inspired Bishop Fulton Sheen

This article on a modern day saint is a little different. It is about a young Chinese girl that was never canonized as a saint, but surely is one of the thousands of Christians who lived as a saint and died as a martyr for Christ. We do not know her name or even the date of her martyrdom.

A couple of months before his death Bishop Fulton J. Sheen was interviewed on national television. One of the questions was this: "*Bishop Sheen, you have inspired millions of people all over the world. Who inspired you? Was it a Pope?*"

Bishop Sheen responded that it was not a Pope, a cardinal, another bishop, or even a priest or a nun. It was a little Chinese girl of eleven years of age. He explained that when the Communists took over China, they imprisoned a priest in his own rectory near the Church. After they locked him up in his own house, the priest was horrified to look out of his window and see the Communists proceed into the Church, where they went into the sanctuary and broke into the tabernacle. In an act of hateful desecration, they took the ciborium and threw it on the floor with all of the Sacred Hosts spilling out. The priest knew exactly the number of Hosts in the ciborium; thirty-two.

When the Communists left, they either did not notice, or didn't pay any attention to a small girl praying in the back of the Church who saw everything that had happened. That night the little girl came back. Slipping past the guard at the priest's house, she went inside the Church. There she made a holy hour of prayer, an act of love to make up for the act of hatred.

After her holy hour she went into the sanctuary, knelt down, bent over and with her tongue received Jesus in Holy Communion, since (at that time) it was not permissible for laymen to touch the Sacred Host with their hands.

The little girl continued to come back each night to make her holy hour and receive Jesus in Holy Communion on her tongue. On the thirty-second night, after she had consumed the last and thirty-second host, she accidentally made a noise and woke the guard who was sleeping. He ran after her, caught her, and beat her to death with the butt of his rifle.

This act of heroic martyrdom was witnessed by the priest as he watched grief-stricken from his bedroom window.

When Bishop Sheen heard the story he was so inspired that he promised God he would make a holy hour of prayer before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament every day of his life.

If this frail, little child could give testimony and witness to the world concerning the real and wonderful Presence of her Savior in the Blessed Sacrament, then the Bishop was absolutely bound by all that was right and true, to do the same. His sole desire from then on was to bring the world to the burning Heart of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

The little girl showed the Bishop what true courage and zeal really is; how faith could overcome all fear, how true love for Jesus in the Eucharist must transcend life itself. What is hidden in the Sacred Host is the glory of His love. The sun in the sky is symbolic of the Son of God in the Blessed Sacrament. This is why most monstrances are in the form of a sunburst. As the sun is the natural source of all energy, the Blessed Sacrament is the supernatural source of all grace and love.

*Excerpt from an article **Let the SON Shine Out** by Rev. Martin Lucia*

**Christ's love for us:-
This is the Eucharist'.**

Given Love, Love that remains,
Love passed to others,
Love that multiplies, sacrificed Love,
uniting Love, Love that saves us.
(Pope Paul VI 28 May 1970)

Our Lady Ta' Pinu Shrine

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