

Reflection for Saturday Week 11 – The immaculate heart of Mary 2020

The heart of Mary is, as the Psalmist wrote; *“one that exults in the Lord and finds its strength in God; and rejoices in God’s saving help.”* Her heart was always ready to respond to God with love, how else was she be able to respond to Gabriel and say yes to becoming the mother of Jesus. It is said that behind every great man there is a great woman. We celebrated the heart of Jesus yesterday and the love that flows so freely and abundantly from it. Where did Jesus learn about this love but from his Mother Mary and from Joseph; as the psalmist wrote, *‘so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.’* It is apt, therefore, that we celebrate the loving heart of Mary today, for wherever Jesus is his Mother is not far behind. As we know love unites and, in being shared, it grows stronger. We thank Mary not only for being a loving mother to us but also to her son. How she must have inspired him in those difficult times in his life. She followed him throughout his ministry and did not forsake him in his last hours before his death, holding his body lovingly in her hands after death just as she did after his birth. She was there again, ready to greet him once he rose from the dead. Her loving heart has inspired many just as she inspires us:

Saint John Damascene *“The day of the Nativity of the Mother of God is a day of universal joy, because through the Mother of God, the entire human race was renewed, and the sorrow of the first mother, Eve, was transformed into joy.”*

J.R.R. Tolkien *“All my own perception of beauty both in majesty and simplicity is founded upon Our Lady.”*

Saint Anthony of Padua *“Seek refuge in Mary because she is the city of refuge. We know that Moses set up three cities of refuge for anyone who inadvertently killed his neighbour. Now the Lord has established a refuge of mercy, Mary, even for those who deliberately commit evil. Mary provides shelter and strength for the sinner.”*

Saint Jerome, *“Even while living in the world, the heart of Mary was so filled with motherly tenderness and compassion for people that no-one ever suffered so much for their own pains, as Mary suffered for the pains of her children.”*

Mother Teresa *“If you ever feel distressed during your day — call upon our Lady — just say this simple prayer: ‘Mary, Mother of Jesus, please be a mother to me now.’ I must admit — this prayer has never failed me.”*

To string you along a bit more. . .

A piece of string walks into a bar and the bartender says, “Sorry, we don’t serve strings here.” The string walks out all sad and defeated, then has a great idea. He ties himself into a bow, cuts off his ends to look all pretty, and struts back into the bar.

The bartender looks at him and goes, “Hey, aren’t you that string I turned away before?” and the string goes, “**Nope! I’m a frayed knot!**”