

Reflection Saturday Week 23 – 2020

This Saturday is dedicated to the Most Holy Name of Mary. *Since very early times Saturdays have had a special place among the days dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. This memorial derives from 9th century and emphasizes certain values in contemporary spirituality. It is a remembrance of the maternal example and discipleship of the Blessed Virgin Mary who, strengthened by faith and hope, on that “great Saturday” on which Our Lord lay in the tomb, was the only disciple to hold vigil in expectation of the Lord’s resurrection. It is a prelude and introduction to the celebration of Sunday, the weekly memorial of the Resurrection of Christ. It is a sign that the Virgin Mary is continuously present and operative in the life of the Church.’* It also reminds us that she is continually present and operative for us and on our behalf with her Son. We could not agree more with Jesus about the importance of our foundations in life. Foundation built in the home, in the family. Foundations strengthened in our schools and foundations strengthened, repaired and enhanced by the Church. I knew of a church built at the bottom of a hill on what was thought very solid foundations. But over the years the water that flowed down the hill after rainy days very gradually eroded away the foundations. Fortunately, a plan was developed to create a very solid raft under the church which was filled with tons and tons of concrete so that if there was any movement the foundation would move with the Church. There is an addendum to Jesus’ story. If the foundations of anyone is weak or poor, Jesus has a way of providing a very stable raft on which to stabilise you and carry you through whatever storm or challenges may pass your way, however powerful they may be. This raft is built on faith and love of Jesus Christ and is filled with the love, mercy and goodness of God given us in the eucharist. Mary is there to reassure us of the power and strength of this raft, this love, mercy and goodness of God. Mary is a true mother to us.

And remember, God protects us so that we can protect creation. As Pope Francis said: *To protect creation, to protect every man and every woman, to look upon them with tenderness and love is to open up a horizon of hope.*

*On a river rafting trip in Egypt, a couple began to sink. The husband urged his wife to swim to safety before the water got too deep, but she refused to believe she was in any danger. **She was too deep in de Nile.***