

Reflection Saturday Week 1 Blessed Virgin Mary 2023

Saturday memorials of the Blessed Virgin Mary occur when there is no obligatory memorial for this day. Saturdays stand out among days dedicated to the Virgin Mary. This memorial derives from Carolingian times (9th century), although reasons for choosing Saturday are unknown. Whatever its historical origins may be, today the memorial rightly emphasizes certain values to which contemporary spirituality is more sensitive. 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 one of the disciples 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.

Like Jesus, Mary looks at the heart with the deep, deep love of a mother. She is aware of our blessings, our goodness, our abilities and our failings. Like Jesus, too, she welcomes and loves us as we are, not as we should or could be but as we are. In the Gospel Jesus tells us that he has come to call sinners because he knows that a sinner is one who recognises his/her need of God, is sorry for any and every offence committed and is open to and yearns for God’s love.

St Augustine:

*Blessed Virgin Mary,
who can worthily repay you with praise and thanks
for having rescued a fallen world by your generous consent!
Receive our gratitude, and by your prayers obtain pardon for our sins.
Take our prayers to heaven and enable them to make peace with God.
Holy Mary, help the miserable,
strengthen the discouraged,
comfort the sorrowful,
pray for your people,
plead for the clergy,
intercede for all men and women consecrated to God.
May all who venerate you experience your help and protection.
Help us when we pray, and bring back answers to our prayers.
For you were blessed by God to bear the Redeemer of the world,
who lives and reigns forever. Amen.*

What did mommy spider say to baby spider? – You spend too much time on the web.

What do you call a mom who can’t draw? – Tracy.

What do you call a small mum? A minimum.