



PREPARING FOR PENTECOST

TAKING MARY INTO YOUR HOME

This Thursday is the Feast of the Ascension; The following Sunday 31st May is the Feast of Pentecost, the birthday of the church.

During the first 50 days, in the upper room in Jerusalem, Mary joined a discouraged, fearful, timid group of apostles. At Cana the wine ran out; now the wine had definitely run out! Peter and John, and James were ready to call it a day and take up fishing again; Thomas felt pipped that he is left out of the resurrection appearances of Jesus, and goes off and sulks. The disciples of Emmaus head of the hills and leave Jerusalem.

‘Woman behold your Son’. Mary in her maternal role, as Mother of the Church, conferred on her by Jesus at the foot of the cross, took this group of Apostles, during these 50 days, under her mantle in prayer, as she took the married couple and their failing wedding celebration under her mantle at Cana. The Cana celebration was soon to be a cause of embarrassment and shame for the hosts, because of the lack of wine; imagine being at a wedding where there is no wine or alcohol, and you had to drink only tap water and coca cola! In Jesus’ time a wedding lasted a whole month, a lot of alcohol had to be provided to sustain a wedding!

After Mary’s intercession, and Jesus’s intervention, and the servant’s obedience, a new wine appears in the middle of this failing situation, and by all accounts, not just ordinary wine, but

something superlative in taste, bouquet, and flavour, and in such abundance that the wedding celebration not only continues, but is now sustained and continues, marked with a new joy and abundance, which was not present before.

The wedding of Cana is found only in John's gospel, at its end John puts before us another scene of failure. At the foot of the cross, of all the thousands of people who followed Christ, including the apostles, there is, just John, and a few women including Mary. Everyone else has fled! It seems that Christ's mission has failed! But in this very moment of failure, Christ reshapes this failure, by putting the church in the hands of Mary, conferring on her the role of Mother of the Church.

The Church is often described as a body, a mystical body. Mary who has already brought forth the head of this body, Jesus Christ, is entrusted to now deliver the rest of the body - i.e. you and me! Children are usually born head first, and then the rest of the body appears after the head pops out.

St Augustine expresses this beautifully: *"in order for Christ to be formed in us, in order to be conformed to the image and likeness of Christ, each of us is hidden in the womb of the most Holy Virgin Mary, where we are guarded, nourished and brought up, and made to grow by that good mother until she has brought them forth to glory after death, which is properly the day of our birth."*

We belong to this 'rest' of the mystical body of the church which Mary has to deliver. What part do we have to play? Just as at Cana the new wine was the fruit of three things: Mary's intercession, Jesus' intervention, and the servant's obedience; ours is the servant's obedience - to choose to obey Christ's last word to us through the apostle John, 'Behold you mother', and to respond as John did by taking Mary into your home.

Have you done this? Why not start this Thursday, in the great novena of the church between Ascension and Pentecost. Pray the rosary, consecrate yourself, your family to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, brush up on your relationship with Mary, try doing some spiritual reading..

At the apparitions of Our Lady **at Fatima, Knock, Lourdes, Rue du Bac, Guadalupe, Zaragoza, Akita, Kibeho, Quito, Banneux, la Salette, Garabandal** and many other places, Christ continues to present to us with this choice, and invites us to take Mary into our homes, especially in our troubled times.

St Louis de Montfort speaks about the fruits of this obedience :

"When the Holy Ghost, her Spouse, has found Mary in a soul, He flies there. He enters there in His fulness; He communicates Himself to that soul abundantly, and to the full extent to which she makes room for her Spouse."

And conversely *'One of the great reasons why the Holy Ghost does not now do startling wonders in our souls is because He does not find there a sufficiently great union with His faithful and indissoluble Spouse.'*

To his disciples, to us, Christ promised that he would not leave us orphans, children without parents, without mother and father, at the cross we are introduced to our new mother, Mary. In the bosom of this family, with Mary our mother, God our Father, Jesus our Friend, Lord, Brother, Saviour we grow and become ready for our own personal Pentecost, our own transformation into a new creation in Christ.

Our Lady, Mother of the church, Pray for us.

Fr David Falcon



Suggestion : Read True Devotion to Mary by Louis de Montfort.

Pray the novena to the Holy Spirit between Thursday 21st May the Feast of the Ascension and Sunday 31st May - using the Litany to the Holy Spirit.