

PART FIVE: Pervasive Role of Mary

Part B: Association with the Mysteries of Christ

Jesus associated Mary in all the mysteries of his life, his death, his resurrection, and his continuing presence and work through the Holy Spirit in the Church. If we can see by faith that the Holy Spirit has taken Mary as a constant and permanent spouse in accomplishing all the mysteries in Jesus, then we can believe also accomplishing all the mysteries in Jesus, then we can believe also in her constant and permanent association in the mysteries of Jesus continuing in the Church today. This is the basis of Mary's mission, and as Marianists we believe it is likewise the basis of our own mission.

We are saying that Mary is united with the Holy Spirit of Jesus in all the operations of grace that take place in the Church and in individual people. The instances where Mary's cooperation and association are very evident – like the Annunciation, the birth of Jesus, Cana, Calvary, Pentecost – give our faith a clear picture of how she is associated in everything Jesus did. She is present as mother in every mystery by her desires and her compassion and by her rejoicing at Jesus' healings, marveling at his teachings, hurting at the ill treatment he receives, and pleading together with him to the Father during long nights of prayer...Mary's universal role is clear when viewed through the eyes of our faith.

Father Chaminade saw the effectiveness of Mary's presence as the promised woman who would crush the head of the works of evil in this world. He saw her as being active in his own time, and this was the basis of his great confidence and enthusiasm.

...Religious indifference may vainly attack her; she will gain victory, as she already has gained it over all heresies. What is so striking, so consoling and reassuring, is that Mary's action on the human race and especially on Christians is made so visible by Providence today. (Marianist Directions 2, par.435-6).

Mary's role is a matter of believe. The more we believe it, the more her presence is effective in establishing the justice and peace of the Lord which this world so needs.

It is our belief as Marianists that we are called today to participate in this urgent and arduous mission of generating the life of the Spirit in people and establishing the justice and the peace of Jesus in the entire world. We do not believe we are worthy or particularly capable, but we do believe we are called.

We, who come last of all, who believe ourselves called by Mary herself to aid her with all our strength in her struggle against the heresy of this age, have taken as our motto...these words of the Blessed Virgin to the servants at Cana: "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5). Convinced as we are that our special mission, despite our own weakness, is to perform for our neighbor's good all the works of zeal and of mercy, we make use of every possible means (to serve the great needs of our day). (Marianist Writings 2, par.81)

As Marianists, we believe in the effectiveness of Mary's presence. We believe we are called to bring the influence of her presence everywhere – especially to those people most in need and to those situations which most demand support or transformation. We believe in the power of her presence because it guarantees the active presence of the Holy Spirit. So, we dedicate ourselves to communicate Mary's presence in everything, whether we are cooking a few beans for supper or working to change the world's economic structures that oppress the poor.

Our work is far-reaching; it is magnificent. If it is universal, this is because we are missionaries of Mary, who said to us: "Do whatever he tells you." Indeed, every one of you is a missionary. (MW 2, par.82)

God has given Mary a universal and influential love for all people. Her love is compassionate and creative. Like all spiritual realities, in order to be incarnate Mary's presence needs people through whom to work.

If we could only read in her heart all the plans her love has conceived to save the world from universal shipwreck...we would devote ourselves more to her; we would use her name more often and with more confidence; and we would experience with great joy the wonderful effects of the power given into her hands. (MW 2, par.437)

To save the world, God's love must be incarnate. Jesus took a human nature from Mary so that God's love could touch and change people. Jesus sent his Holy Spirit into the hearts of disciples who were willing to receive that Spirit.

Mary's love needs people to embody her love and to allow her presence to work its influence. Father Chaminade gave us the image of Mary putting her own love into us and of her love operating in us when we give ourselves to her mission.

We are in a particular matter the auxiliaries and the instruments of the Blessed Virgin...She makes us the depositaries of the fruits of her ingenuity in working out the designs of her almost infinite charity, and we commit ourselves to serve her faithfully until the end of our lives and to carry out punctually everything she tells us to do, happy to be able to spend our lives and our strength in her service, because they belong to her. (MW 2, par.75)