

Marian Thoughts of Pope Francis

January 2015

Jan. 1 – Jesus cannot be understood without His mother –Translated beginning of the homily (January 2, 2014, VIS).

Today we are reminded of the words of blessing which Elizabeth spoke to the Virgin Mary: 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?'. This blessing is in continuity with the priestly blessing which God had given to Moses to be passed on to Aaron and to all the people: 'The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace'. In celebrating the Solemnity of Mary the Most Holy Mother of God, the Church reminds us that Mary, more than anyone else, received this blessing. In her the blessing finds fulfilment, for no other creature has ever seen God's face shine upon it as did Mary. She gave a human face to the eternal Word, so that all of us can contemplate Him.

For more about what the Pope said about Mary:

<http://visnews-en.blogspot.com/2015/01/jesus-cannot-be-understood-without-his.html>

Jan. 1 – Pope's New Year's Day Angelus – Translated beginning (January 02, 2015, Zenit.org).

On this first day of the year, in the joyful atmosphere of Christmas, the Church invites us to fix our gaze of faith and of love on the Mother of Jesus. In her, the humble woman of Nazareth, "the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us" (Jn 1:14). Because of this it is impossible to separate contemplation of Jesus, the Word of life Who is made visible and tangible (cf. 1 Jn 1:1), from contemplation of Mary, who has given Him her love and her human flesh.

For more about what the Pope said about Mary:

<http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/pope-s-new-year-s-day-angelus>

Jan. 4 – Angelus Address: On Peace in Our Hearts, Families, World – Translated beginning and conclusion (January 04, 2015, Zenit.org).

A few days ago we began the new year in the name of the Mother of God, ...

Let us invoke Mary, the Queen of Peace. She, during her earthly life, knew no small difficulties, joined to the daily fatigue of existence. But she never lost peace of heart, the fruit of trustful abandonment to the mercy of God. Let us ask Mary, our tender Mother, to show to the whole world the sure path of love and of peace.

Jan. 6 – Pope's Homily for Today's Feast of the Epiphany – Translated extracts (January 06, 2015, Zenit.org).

That child, born in Bethlehem of the Virgin Mary, came not only for the people of Israel, represented by the shepherds of Bethlehem, but also for all humanity, represented today by the wise men from the East.

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Coming to Bethlehem, they found “the child with Mary his mother” (Mt 2:11).

Let us ask the Lord ... to have the humility to ask the Mother, our Mother, to show him to us.

Jan. 6 – Pope’s Angelus Address on Solemnity of the Epiphany – Translated conclusion (January 07, 2015, Zenit.org).

We now turn to the Virgin Mary and invoke her protection on the universal Church, so that the Gospel of Christ, Lumen gentium, light of all peoples, is spread throughout the world.

Jan. 6 – Pope’s General Audience Address: On Mother Church and Motherhood – Translated beginning (January 07, 2015, Zenit.org).

In these days, the liturgy of the Church has placed before our eyes the icon of the Virgin Mary, Mother of God. The first day of the year is the feast of the Mother of God, which is followed by the Epiphany, recalling the visit of the Magi. The evangelist Matthew writes: “and going into the house they saw the child with Mary, his Mother, and they fell down and worshipped him” (Matthew 2:11). It is the Mother who, after having generated him, presents the Son to the world. She gives us Jesus, she shows us Jesus, she makes us see Jesus.

Jan. 9 – Pope’s greetings to the presidents of Doctrinal Commissions of the European Episcopal Conferences – Translated conclusion (January 13, 2014, VIS).

I commend your works to the maternal intercession of the Virgin Mary, model for every believer,

Jan. 11 – Angelus Address: On the Baptism of the Lord – Translated conclusion (January 11, 2015, Zenit.org).

May Mary, Mother of God and of the Church, accompany the path of we who are baptized. May She help us to grow in love towards God and in the joy of serving the Gospel, to give us full meaning to our lives.

Jan. 12 – Pope Francis’ Address to the Diplomatic Corps – Translated extract (January 12, 2015, Zenit.org).

Indeed, because of Herod’s brutality, the Holy Family was forced to flee to Egypt, and was only able to return several years later (cf. Mt 2:13-15).

Jan. 12 – Pope’s Address to Participants of Meeting on Haiti – Translated conclusion (January 12, 2015, Zenit.org).

May Mary our Mother guide and protect you.

Jan. 14 – Pope’s speech at the Shrine of Our Lady of Madhu, former refuge during civil war – Translated beginning (January 14, 2015, Rome Reports).

We are in our Mother’s house. Here she welcomes us into her home. At this shrine of Our Lady of Madhu, every pilgrim can feel at home, for here Mary brings us into the presence of her Son Jesus. Here Sri Lankans, Tamil and Sinhalese alike, come as members of one family. To Mary they commend their joys and sorrows, their hopes and needs. Here, in her home, they feel safe.

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For more about what the Pope said about Mary:

<http://www.romereports.com/pg159892-pope-s-speech-at-the-shrine-of-our-lady-of-madhu-former-refuge-during-civil-war-en>

Jan. 15 – Text of Pope’s Press Conference en Route to Manila – Translated extract (January 16, 2015, Zenit.org).

... it’s true, the image of Our Lady of Lujan has arrived, thank you so much.

... Yesterday at Madhu [Shrine of Our Lady] I saw something I would never have thought: they were not all Catholics, not even the majority! There were Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus and all went there to pray; they went and said they received graces!

Jan. 16 – Holy Mass with Bishops, Priests, and Religious People: Homily of His Holiness Pope Francis – Excerpt (January 16, 2015, Vatican.va).

Filipinos everywhere are known for their love of God, their fervent piety and their warm devotion to Our Lady and her rosary; their love of God, their fervent piety and their warm devotion to Our Lady and her rosary! This great heritage contains a powerful missionary potential. It is the way in which your people has inculturated the Gospel and continues to embrace its message (cf. *Evangeli Gaudium*, 122)

For more about what the Pope said about Mary:

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2015/documents/papa-francesco_20150116_srilanka-filippine-omelia-cattedrale-manila.html

Jan. 16 – To families: be aware of your calling as Jesus’ missionary disciples – Extract of pope’s discourse at the meeting with families in the Philippines (January 16, 2015, VIS).

... in this evening’s Gospel. There are three aspects of this passage which I would ask you to consider: resting in the Lord, rising with Jesus and Mary, and being a prophetic voice. ...

Joseph was chosen by God to be the foster father of Jesus and the husband of Mary. ...

For more about what the Pope said about Mary:

<http://visnews-en.blogspot.com/2015/01/to-families-be-aware-of-your-calling-as.html>

Jan. 16 – Pope’s Address at Meeting of Families in Manila – Beginning (Manila, January 16, 2015, Zenit.org).

The angel of the Lord revealed to Joseph the dangers which threatened Jesus and Mary, forcing them to flee to Egypt and then to settle in Nazareth. ...

So rise with Jesus and Mary, and set out on the path the Lord traces for each of you.

For more about what the Pope said about Mary:

<http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/pope-s-address-at-meeting-of-families-in-manila>

Jan. 16 – Pope’s Homily at Site of Typhoon Yolanda – Translated extract – (Manila, January 17, 2015, Zenit.org).

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And beside the cross was his mother. We are like this little child just there, who in moments when we have so much pain, when we no longer understand anything, all we can do is grab hold of her hand firmly, and say, Mom, as a child does to his mother when he or she feels fear. It is perhaps the only word that we can say in such difficult times: Mother, Mom.

For more about what the Pope said about Mary:

<http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/pope-s-homily-at-site-of-typhoon-yolanda>

Jan. 16 –Pope’s Meeting with Clergy and Religious in Palo – Translated extracts (January 17, 2015, Zenit.org).

Let us leave everything in the hands of Our Lady because I have to go now. Do you know what the problem is? ...

Let’s pray the “Hail Mary” together

[Prepared talk] I commend all of you to the loving protection of Mary, Mother of the Church. ...

Jan. 17 -- Concluding Mass in Manila: the child Jesus, protector of the Philippines –Translated extract (January 18, 2015, VIS).

He [the Christ Child] had an earthly family, the Holy Family of Nazareth.

Jan. 18 – Pope’s Address to Young People – Translated extract (Manila, January 18, 2015, Zenit.org).

I would like all of you, young like her, to pray for a moment in silence with me and then we pray to our [mother], Our Lady in heaven. ... [Ave Maria ... Hail Mary]

Jan. 19 – Full text of Pope Francis' In-Flight Press Conference (Part II) – Translated extract (January 22, 2015, Zenit.org).

But you know that go to Mexico without going to visit the Madonna (of Guadalupe) would be a drama.

Jan. 21 – On the Apostolic Visit to Sri Lanka and the Philippines –Translated extract (January 21, 2015, Zenit.org).

The subject of reconciliation also characterized my visit to the shrine of Our Lady of Madhu, much venerated by the Tamil and the Sinhalese and a place of pilgrimage for members of other religions. In that holy place, we asked Mary our Mother to obtain for all the Sri Lankan people the gift of unity and peace.

Jan. 21 – Pope’s Letter to Archdiocese of Palo – Translated conclusion (February 03, 2015, Zenit.org).

May ... the Blessed Virgin protect you always,

Jan. 23 – Pope’s Message for 49th World Communications Day – Translated extract (January 23, 2015, VIS).

We can draw inspiration from the Gospel passage which relates the visit of Mary to Elizabeth. 'When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit

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cried out in a loud voice and said, “Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb”. This episode first shows us how communication is a dialogue intertwined with the language of the body. The first response to Mary’s greeting is given by the child, who leaps for joy in the womb of Elizabeth. ...

For more about what the Pope said about Mary:

<http://visnews-en.blogspot.com/2015/01/popes-message-for-49th-world.html>

Jan. 25 – Angelus Address: On the Thirst for Unity – Translated conclusion (January 25, 2015, Zenit.org).

And we entrust this, our prayer, to the maternal intercession of the Virgin Mary, Mother of Christ and Mother of the Church so that She, like a good Mother, may unite us.

Jan. 25 – Pope Francis’ Homily at Celebration of Vespers at the Basilica of St. Paul – Translated conclusion (January 25, 2015, Zenit.org).

Dear brothers and sisters, today all of us who thirst for peace and fraternity trustingly implore from our heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ the one Priest, and through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Apostle Paul and all the saints, the gift of full communion between all Christians, so that "the sacred mystery of the unity of the Church" (Unitatis Redintegratio, 2) may shine forth as the sign and instrument of reconciliation for the whole world.

Jan. 26 – Pope Francis: women first and foremost in transmitting faith – Translated extract of homily (January 26, 2015, Vatican Radio).

It occurs to me: why is it mainly women, who to pass on the faith? Simply because the one who brought us Jesus is a woman. It is the path chosen by Jesus. He wanted to have a mother: the gift of faith comes to us through women, as Jesus came to us through Mary.

Jan. 26 – Pope Francis’ Address to Canon Law Faculty of the Pontifical Gregorian University – Translated conclusion (January 26, 2015, Zenit.org).

I entrust to Mary Most Holy, Sedes Sapientiae, the continuation of your study and of your reflection on all that the Lord wills today for the good of souls, which he acquired with his blood.

Jan. 27 -- Popes Morning Homily: Obeying God's Will is the Path to Holiness – Translated extract (January 27, 2015, Zenit.org).

The Holy Father said that while this path began in Heaven, ... on earth it began with the Blessed Virgin Mary's 'yes' in accepting God's will to bring the Savior into the world.

Jan. 30 – Pope’s Address to the Joint International Commission for Theological Dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Oriental Orthodox Churches – Translated conclusion (January 30, 2015, Zenit.org).

Upon you and your ministry I invoke ... the maternal protection of Mary Most Holy.

Jan. 31 – Pope’s Message for World Youth Day – Translated conclusion (February 17, 2015, VIS).

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And may the maternal gaze of the Blessed Virgin Mary, full of grace, all-beautiful and all-pure, accompany us at every step along the way.