

Home > About Mary > Mary in Liturgy > The Collection of Masses Introduction > The Collection of Masses by Season



THE COLLECTION OF MASSES OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

LENTEN SEASON

LENT: HOLY MARY, DISCIPLE OF THE LORD

Lent is a "journey" for the faithful, during which they "more diligently listen to the word of God and devote themselves to prayer with greater earnestness" (SC, art. 109), and during which they are ready to bear the cross with greater zeal, so that with minds and hearts renewed they may reach a more worthy celebration of the Easter festival.

... In it [this Mass] the mother of the Lord is presented as one who shows us "the example of a disciple, who is faithful to the words of life." (Opening Prayer OP). Our Lady is the one who by a unique gift of God was the mother of Christ, and above all was his "first and most perfect ... disciple" (*Marialis Cultus* MC, no. 35).

Source: Excerpts from the introductory commentary to the Mass, *Collection of Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, Volume 1, Sacramentary, Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1992, p. 61.]

LENT: THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS

Lent unfolds like the journey of Jesus to the holy city of Jerusalem, the place of his sacrifice: as it progresses, there is more frequent meditation on the mystery of his passion. So too in the hearts of the faithful there is more frequent remembrance of the compassion of our Lady.

... The texts of the Mass reflect on the mystery of Christ's passion, mysteriously filled out through the present sufferings of his members as they face the "many trials of this life."

Our Lady, "queen of heaven and earth," stood by the cross of her Son, "in his agony," "mournful," yet full of "courage" and "faith," playing many roles in the mystery of salvation, and fulfilling "in her person the prophecies of old."

Source: Excerpts from the introductory commentary to the Mass, *Collection of Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, Volume 1, Sacramentary, Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1992, p. 63.]

LENT: THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS

This Mass in celebration of Christ's saving passion also honors the part played by the Blessed Virgin in achieving our salvation. When Mary became the mother of Christ "by the power of the Holy Spirit," she became by a further

gift of divine love "a partner in his passion," a mother suffering with him.

The prayers of the Mass recall the plan of salvation, by which God joined the suffering of the mother with the suffering of her Son, and decreed that "the new Eve should stand by the cross of the new Adam."

Source: Excerpts from the introductory commentary to the Mass, *Collection of Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, Volume 1, Sacramentary, Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1992, p. 65.]

...

LENT: THE COMMENDING OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The words of Jesus, dying on the cross: "Behold your son ... Behold your mother," (John 19:26-27) are seen by the Church as a special parting gift, by which Christ the Lord "entrusted" to his Virgin Mother "all his disciples as her children," (Leo XIII, Encyclical Letter *Octobri mense*: ASS 24 [1891-1892] p. 195) and entrusted his mother to his disciples to be honored and revered. Hence "a deep bond of love is fashioned between the Blessed Virgin Mary and his faithful disciples," which is honored and celebrated in this Mass.

The commending of the disciples: it is primarily God who is glorified, for making "a home for the Blessed Virgin in the Church as the joyful mother of children." (Ent Ant, see Psalm 113:9)

Source: Excerpts from the introductory commentary to the Mass, *Collection of Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, Volume 1, Sacramentary, Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1992, p. 68.]

LENT: THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF RECONCILIATION

The season of Lent has both a baptismal and a penitential character (see SC, art. 109). From Ash Wednesday the words of the apostle re-echo in the liturgy: "We beg you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled with God" (2 Corinthians 5:20). This text is also used in this Mass (1 Read, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21).

The Church has with ever greater clarity acknowledged the role of our Lady in reconciling sinners with God. The Fathers of the Church in the early centuries, in discussing the mystery of the incarnation of the Word, speak frequently of the virginal womb of the mother of the Lord as the place where "peace" between God and the human race came to be.

In the Middle Ages ecclesiastical writers, deepening their understanding of the maternal role of the Blessed Virgin, gave her the titles of "way of reconciliation," "general cause of reconciliation" as well as "mother of reconciliation," because it was from her that Jesus Christ, the "reconciliation of sinners," was born: "There is no reconciliation," says St. Anselm of Canterbury (d. 1109), "except the reconciliation that you bore in purity." (H. Barrè, *Priores anciennes de L 'Occident el la Mare du Sauveur*, Ed. P. Lethielleux, Paris, 1963, p. 305)

In our own day the Blessed Virgin is honored liturgically in many places under the title of "reconciler of sinners," thanks especially to the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette. ...

Source: Excerpts from the introductory commentary to the Mass, *Collection of Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, Volume 1, Sacramentary, Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1992, p. 70.]

[Return to The Mary Page](#)

This page, maintained by The Marian Library/International Marian Research Institute, Dayton, Ohio 45469-1390, and created by Micheal P. Duricy, was last modified Thursday, 06/13/2013 10:57:47 EDT by Ann Zlotnik. Please send any comments to jroten1@udayton.edu.

[Home](#) > [About Mary](#) > [Mary in Liturgy](#) > [The Collection of Masses Introduction](#) > [The Collection of Masses by Season](#)