

## **Marian Thoughts of Pope Francis**

### **February 2015**

**Feb. 1 – Angelus Address: On the Power of God's Word** – Translated conclusion (February 01, 2015, Zenit.org).

Let us invoke the maternal intercession of the Virgin Mary, with Her who received the word and generated it for the world, for all mankind. May She teach us to be assiduous listeners and authoritative announcers of the Gospel of God.

**Feb. 2 – Pope Francis' Address to the Bishops of Lithuania** – Translated extracts (February 02, 2015, Zenit.org).

Throughout the history of the nation, they [pastors] have accompanied their own people with care not only in the path of faith and in confronting material difficulties, but also in the civil and cultural building of society, which finds its historical substratum and identity in the strength of the Gospel and in the love towards the Most Holy Mother of God.

... May the Virgin Mary, particularly venerated in your country as the "Gate of the Dawn" in Vilinius, as well as in Šiluva and in many other parts, intercede for the Church in Lithuania. May She protect with Her mantle the priests, religious men and women and all the faithful and obtain for every community the fullness of the grace of the Lord.

**Feb. 2 – Pope's Homily for World Day of Consecrated Life:** “Both Mary, young Mother, as well as Simeon, elderly ‘grandfather,’ carry the Child in their arms, but it is the Child himself that leads them both” – Translated beginning (February 02, 2015, Zenit.org).

We have before our mind's eye the icon of Mother Mary, who walks with the Child Jesus in her arms. She takes him to the Temple, introduces him to the people, carries him to encounter his people.

For more about what the Pope said about Mary:

<http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/pope-s-homily-for-world-day-of-consecrated-life>

**Feb. 2 – Pope's Message to the Brotherhood Campaign in Brazil** – Translated conclusion (February 18, 2015, Zenit.org).

Through the intercession of Our Lady of Aparecida, I send to each and all of you my heartfelt Apostolic Blessing, ...

**Feb. 2 – Francis calls for collaboration of episcopal conferences and religious superiors with the Commission for the Protection of Minors** – Translated conclusion (February 5, 2015, VIS).

May Mary Most Holy, Mother of tenderness and mercy, help us to carry out, generously and thoroughly, our duty to humbly acknowledge and repair past injustices and to remain ever faithful in the work of protecting those closest to the heart of Jesus.

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**Feb. 3 – Pope at Santa Marta: A lesson in contemplative prayer** – Translated extract (February 3, 2015, Vatican Radio).

... "it is good to pray the Rosary every day", to talk "with the Lord, when we have a problem, or the Virgin Mary.

**Feb. 4 -- General Audience: On the Positive Role of Fathers** – Translated beginning (February 04, 2015, Zenit.org).

Saint Joseph was also tempted to leave Mary, when he discovered that she was pregnant, but the Angel of the Lord intervened and revealed God's plan and his mission of foster father. And Joseph, a just man, "took his wife" (Mt. 1:24) and became the father of the Family of Nazareth.

**Feb. 5 – Pope Francis' Address to the Episcopal Conference of Greece** – Translated conclusion (February 05, 2015, Zenit.org).

I entrust you, the priests, the consecrated persons and all the lay faithful of your dioceses to the intercession of the Holy Virgin, ...

**Feb. 7 -- Francis to the SECAM: Invest in education in Africa to defend the young from fundamentalism and abuse of religion** – Translated conclusion (February 7, 2015, VIS).

May the Virgin Mary protect you and intercede for you and for the entire continent of Africa.

**Feb. 8 – Angelus Address: On the Meaning and Value of Sickness** – Translated extracts (February 08, 2015, Zenit.org).

This reminds us also of the World Day of the Sick, which we will celebrate on Wednesday, February 11th, the liturgical feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Lourdes.

... Let us pray to Mary, Health of the sick, so that every person in sickness can experience, thanks to the care of those closest to them, the power of God's love and the comfort of His paternal tenderness.

[Comments after the Angelus] ... Let us pray, all together to Our Lady. Let us pray to Our Lady for them and for their families. Hail Mary...

**Feb. 8 – Pope's Address to Plenary Assembly of the Pontifical Council for the Laity** – Translated conclusion (February 08, 2015, Zenit.org).

I entrust your work and your projects to the maternal protection of the Virgin Mary, a pilgrim together with Her Son in the announcement of the Gospel, from village to village, from city to city, ...

**Feb. 8 -- In the parish of St. Michael Archangel: maintain daily contact with the Gospel and let Jesus heal our wounds** – Translated extract (February 8, 2015, VIS).

Our Mother who will lead us by the hand to find Jesus, to find peace and not to descend into war.

**Feb. 9 – Pope's Address to the Pontifical Council for Culture** – Translated conclusion (February 09, 2015, Zenit.org).

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Dear men and women friends, I encourage you to carry forward this commitment, which I entrust to the Blessed Virgin Mary, concrete and sublime example of woman and mother.

**Feb. 10 – Telegram for the death of Cardinal Karl Joseph Becker** – Translated extract (February 10, 2015, VIS).

I raise fervent prayers to the Lord, so that, by the intercession of Mary Most Holy and St. Ignatius of Loyola, He may grant the departed Cardinal the eternal reward promised to His disciples, ...

**Feb. 14 – The Pope to the new cardinals** – Translated extract (February 14, 2015, VIS).

May our Mother Mary help us to listen. She gave the world Jesus, charity incarnate, who is 'the more excellent Way'; may she help us to receive this Word and always to advance on this Way. May she assist us by her humility and maternal tenderness, because charity, as God's gift, grows wherever humility and tenderness are found.

**Feb. 15 – Pope Francis' Homily at Mass with Cardinals** – Translated extract – (February 15, 2015, Zenit.org).

Consider carefully that, in these days when you have become Cardinals, we have asked Mary, Mother of the Church, who herself experienced marginalization as a result of slander (cf. Jn 8:41) and exile (cf. Mt 2:13-23), to intercede for us so that we can be God's faithful servants. May she - our Mother - teach us to be unafraid of tenderly welcoming the outcast; not to be afraid of tenderness. How often we fear tenderness! May Mary teach us not to be afraid of tenderness and compassion. May she clothe us in patience as we seek to accompany them on their journey, without seeking the benefits of worldly success. May she show us Jesus and help us to walk in his footsteps.

Dear new Cardinals, my brothers, as we look to Jesus and our Mother, I urge you to serve the Church in such a way that Christians - edified by our witness - will not be tempted to turn to Jesus without turning to the outcast, to become a closed caste with nothing authentically ecclesial about it.

**Feb. 16 – Pope's Address to the "Pro Petri Sede" Association** – Translated conclusion (February 16, 2015, Zenit.org).

Entrusting you to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, ...

**Feb. 18 – Pope's Homily at Ash Wednesday Mass at Basilica of St. Sabina All'Aventino** – Translated conclusion (February 18, 2015, Zenit.org).

May Mary Immaculate support our spiritual battle against sin, accompany us in this favorable moment, so that we can come to sing together the exultance of the victory in the Easter of Resurrection.

**Feb. 20 – Pope Francis' Address to Ukrainian Bishops on Their Ad Limina Visit** – Translated extracts (February 20, 2015, Zenit.org).

We entrusted them [your problems] with confidence to the Mother of God and our Mother, who watches over all with tender love.

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... May the maternal protection of the Blessed Virgin reassure you in your journey of encounter with Christ who comes, reinforcing your resolutions of communion and collaboration.

**Feb. 21 -- Pope Francis' Address to Pilgrims from the Diocese of Cassano All'Jonio – Translated conclusion (February 23, 2015, Zenit.org).**

I invoke upon all of you here present and on the entire diocese of Cassano all'Jonio the protection of Mary Most Holy, whom you venerate with the title of Our Lady of the Chain and Our Lady of the Castle. ... And now, all together, we turn to our Lady and pray to her: Hail Mary ...

**Feb. 22 – Angelus Address: On Crossing the Lenten ‘Desert’ – Translated conclusion (February 22, 2015, Zenit.org).**

May the Blessed Virgin, model of docility to the Spirit, help us to let ourselves be led by Him, who wishes to make each of us a “new creature.”

To Her I entrust, in particular, the week of Spiritual Exercises, that will begin this afternoon, and to which I will participate in together with my collaborators of the Roman Curia.