

Prayer to Mary

O sweet and holy Virgin Mary,
with your believing and perplexed obedience,
at the announcement of the angel you gave us Christ.

At Cana with your attentive Heart you showed us how to act responsibly. You did not wait passively for the action of your Son but you anticipated it, making Him aware of the need and with discreet authority taking the initiative to send the servants to Him.

At the foot of the cross,
obedience made you the Mother of the Church and of believers while in the Upper Room every disciple recognized in you the gentle authority of love and service.

Help us to understand that every true authority in the Church and in consecrated life has its foundation in being docile to the will of God, and help each one of us become in fact, authority for others with our own life lived in obedience to God.

(Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life - The Service of Authority and Obedience)



Jesus Christ and Me
An Oblate Missionary Pilgrimage



Magnificat

Mary "who occupies a place in the Church which is the highest after Christ and also closest to us" (Lumen Gentium 54)

Mary, Virgin and Mother,
you who, moved by the Holy Spirit,
welcomed the word of life
in the depths of your humble faith:
as you gave yourself completely to the Eternal One,
help us to say our own "yes"
to the urgent call, as pressing as ever,
to proclaim the good news of Jesus.

Filled with Christ's presence,
you brought joy to John the Baptist,
making him exult in the womb of his mother.
Brimming over with joy,
you sang of the great things done by God.
Standing at the foot of the cross
with unyielding faith,
you received the joyful comfort of the resurrection,
and joined the disciples in awaiting the Spirit
so that the evangelizing Church might be born.

Obtain for us now a new ardour born of the resurrection,
that we may bring to all the Gospel of life
which triumphs over death.
Give us a holy courage to seek new paths,
that the gift of unfading beauty
may reach every man and woman.

Virgin of listening and contemplation,
Mother of love, Bride of the eternal wedding feast,
pray for the Church, whose pure icon you are,
that she may never be closed in on herself
or lose her passion for establishing God's kingdom.

Star of the new evangelization,
help us to bear radiant witness to communion,
service, ardent and generous faith,
justice and love of the poor,
that the joy of the Gospel
may reach to the ends of the earth,
illuminating even the fringes of our world.

Mother of the living Gospel,
wellspring of happiness for God's little ones,
pray for us.

Amen. Alleluia!

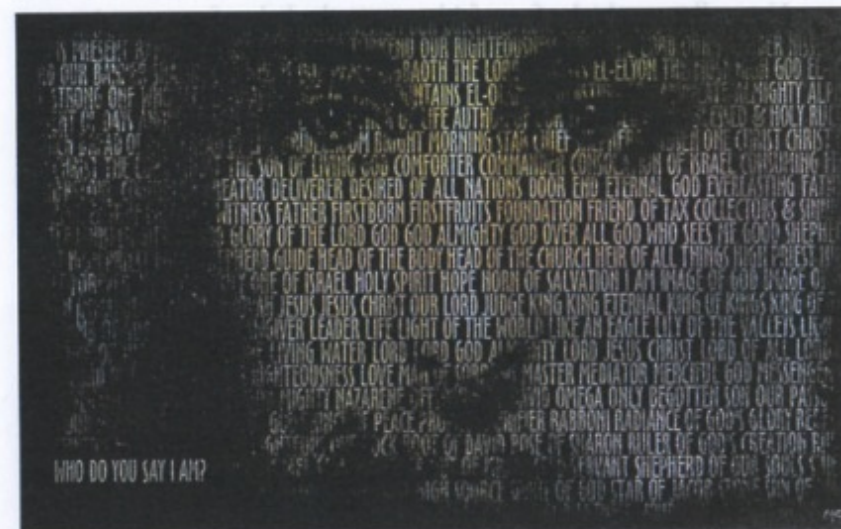
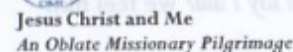
Our language should always take into account the progress of Marian theology and of the biblical sciences. To speak of Mary always with reference to Christ and the Church; to speak of Mary in terms of the most certain realities of her life and mystery; to have at heart the need to confirm our fellow Christians in their confidence in Mary and to develop in them a true, deep and enlightened devotion; lastly, in speaking of Mary, it must be clear to our Christian people that we are aware of the needs, the sufferings and the appeals of today's world: a fairer sharing of wealth, peace in the world, respect for family life and human rights, the integral liberation of the person, the dignity of women...

Fr. Jette - Addresses and written texts 1975-1985

Living God, you sent your Son among us to reveal your wisdom and make known your ways.

Increase our faith that we may confess Jesus as your Son, take up his work on earth, and trust his promise to sustain the Church.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.



Matthew 16:13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

Contemporary Pentecost Sequence

Come, Spirit who is our Light.
Shine among the shadows within.
Warm and transform our hearts.

Come, Spirit who makes a home in us.
Draw us to the treasures of your dwelling.
Reveal to us the inner journey of love.

Come, Spirit, Comforter and Consoler.
Heal the wounded. Soothe the anxious.
Be consolation for all who grieve and ache.

Come, Spirit who energizes our being.
Keep us from the tangles of toil and travail.
Lead us to moments of prayer and play.

Come, Spirit, consuming Fire of Love.
Fill us with enthusiasm for your vision.
May the desire for truth be vibrant within us.

Come, Spirit, joy of our souls.
Dance amid life's hills and valleys,
Encircle us with the delights of your dance.

Come, Spirit of wisdom and insight.
Draw us into your goodness and light.
Direct our growth and guide our ways.

Come, Spirit, strength of wounded ones.
Be warmth in hearts of those grown cold.

Joyce Rupp



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Gospel

JN 20:19-23

On the evening of that first day of the week,
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were,
for fear of the Jews,
Jesus came and stood in their midst
and said to them, "Peace be with you."
When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.
The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you."
And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
"Receive the Holy Spirit.
Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,
and whose sins you retain are retained."

Who do you say I am?

When Jesus presses the question, *who do you say I am?* we feel him speaking to us.

Naturally, we think of our faith now in the light of our own journey of life and pilgrimage of faith.

How did I start out? What was my image of Jesus then and how did I relate to him?

Have there been major turning points for me and can I name one or two?

How have I deepened my familiarity with Jesus and who is he for me now?

If I were to choose an image or a metaphor what would come to mind?

If I were to explain to someone what my faith in Jesus is, what words would I use?

Prayer of Thanksgiving

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. (Eph. 3:14-17)

POINTERS FOR PRAYER

1. This marks a turning point in the life of Jesus, and of the disciples. It is the first time that his disciples recognise him as the Messiah. Recall turning points in your own journey of faith when you came to some deeper understanding of who Jesus is.

2. "Who do you say that I am?" This is possibly the most important question that Jesus puts to us. In your heart of hearts, how do you answer this question today?

3. Jesus praises Peter for his faith and comments that this was not his own doing but a gift of God. Perhaps there have been times when you have been conscious of the gift nature of your faith. Be thankful for the gift you have received.

Opportunities for Reflection

1. Jesus comes into a room full of fear. Sometimes it is fear itself that makes us close the door on others and on God. Occasionally a person comes along with the gift of breaking through our closed doors, a person who comes to be with us in our fears. Do you have memories of people getting through to you and being with you despite your closed doors? Who brought you peace in a time of anxiety?

2. Jesus showed his wounds to his friends. Moments of grace can occur when another shows us their vulnerable side, or when we do that with them. Let your memories speak of such experiences to you.

3. As Jesus was sent by the Father, so he sent out the disciples. This evokes images of receiving and handing on the things that give life: values, meaning, sense of purpose, love. Who are the people who gave you life by what they handed on to you? To whom have you handed on what is life-giving?

4. In our tradition the final verse reminds us of the Sacrament of Reconciliation but its meaning is broader than that. Spirit-filled people are people who forgive. You might like to recall memories of when you have forgiven, or retained, another's sins. What difference has it made to you and others when you forgive rather than hold sins against others?



PRAYER

Send down, O God, upon your people the flame of your Holy Spirit, and fill with the abundance of your sevenfold gift the Church you brought forth from your son's pierced side. May your life-giving Spirit lend fire to our words and strength to our witness. Send us forth to the nations of the world to proclaim with boldness your wondrous work of raising Christ to your right hand.

We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

St Eugene was aware of Jesus as his close friend, even when his friend was silent or seemingly absent.

Fr. Jette tells us that The Founder's outstanding characteristics are; a strong integrated personality which had undergone an experience of Jesus Christ in his personal life, and of Christ's love for people. His radical choice for Jesus!

St Eugene writes:

"I am a sinner, I know that. I think of what I am in the eyes of God. I admire his goodness, the patience with which he has awaited me. My excess of ingratitude leaves me in a state of confusion which is difficult to explain" (Retreat Notes, December 1-21, 1811)

"I have meditated on the use I make of creatures. I have no hesitation in seeing that I have been abusive in this respect, at least up to the time of my conversion. Far from using them for the purpose for which they were intended, I have made them serve my own ends, I have been concerned only with using them and taking pleasure in them"
(Retreat Notes, December 1-21, 1811)

"This morning, before receiving Communion, I dared to speak to my good Master with the same abandon as I would have done if I had the happiness of living while he was on this earth, and I was in the same predicament as I am today... I made known my needs, I asked for light and assistance, and then I abandoned myself entirely to the Lord, not wishing for anything other than God's holy will... I was at ease, I was happy, I felt loving and grateful"
(Letter to Fr Tempier 23rd August 1830)

"I do all that I have to do. God will do the rest. We live only for him..."
(Letter to Fr Tempier 10th June 1826)

"We are the ministers of Christ's mercy. Let us always have the heart of a father... We in our ministry must not only reconcile sinners, we must admit them to the sacred banquet. We must give them the bread of life so that their lives may be renewed" (Letter to Fr Guigues 8th February 1837)

An Invitation

Go to your room and be quiet for some time - becoming aware of the presence of God. Reflect on St Eugene's relationship with Jesus and reflect on your own relationship with Jesus.

Do you feel the gaze of Jesus as loving, remote or judgemental?
Do you see yourself as loving, remote or judgemental?

St Eugene often wrote much in his diary. He also wrote retreat notes, homily notes and letters which have given us an insight into his life with Jesus. **I invite you to write retreat note during these days that describes the genuine sentiments of your heart in regard to your faith in Jesus, your life and your mission.**

You may wish to share something from your retreat notes later today, but there is no obligation.