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Pope Francis

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The Marian Thoughts of Pope Francis

May 2014



May 2 – Pope’s Address to Papal Foundation: Says he’s “deeply appreciative for the assistance which the Foundation has given to the Church in developing countries”

Translated conclusion (May 2, 2014, Zenit.org).

I commend you and your families to the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, ...

May 3 – 90th Day for the Catholic Sacred Heart University [in Milan] – Translated conclusion of pope’s message (May 3, 2014, VIS).

The Pope entrusted the Athenaeum to the celestial protection of the Mother of God “Sedes Sapientiae” ...

May 4 – On the Journey of Faith: “There is always a Word of God that gives us direction after we have become confused” – Translated conclusion of the Regina Coeli address (May 4, 2014, Zenit.org).

Through the intercession of Mary Most Holy let us pray that every Christian, reliving the experience of the disciples of Emmaus, especially at Sunday Mass, rediscover the grace of the transformative encounter with the Lord, with the risen Lord, who is always with us.

[Comments afterwards] I would like to invite you to entrust to Our Lady the situation in Ukraine, where tensions do not cease.

May 6 – Swiss Guard: More than 500 Years of Loyalty to the Pope – Translated extract (May 6, VIS).

...the month of Mary, and so the commencement of your service is under the special protection of Mary most Holy.

May 7 – On the Gift of Counsel: “We must make room for the Spirit, so that He can counsel us.” – Translated extracts (May 7, 2014, Zenit.org).

I remember once I was in a confessional in the shrine of Lujan, ... There was also a very young altogether modern fellow with ear-rings, tattoos, all these things ... It was a big, difficult problem. And he said to me; I have said all this to my mother and my mother said: Go to our Lady and she will tell you what to do. There was a woman who had the gift of counsel. She did not know how to resolve her son’s problem, but she pointed out the right way: go to Our Lady and she will tell you. In fact, this boy said to me: I looked at Our Lady and I felt I had to do this, and this and this ... I did not have to speak, his mother and the boy himself had already said

everything.

For more about what the Pope said about Mary: <http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/on-the-gift-of-counsel>

May 8 – The Pope Receives his Holiness Karekin II and Recalls Armenia’s 20th Century Martyrs – Translated conclusion (May 8, 2014, VIS).

And may the All Holy Mother of God intercede for the Armenian population, now and forever.

May 9 – Pope’s Address to Bishops of Ethiopia and Eritrea: “In your loving concern for the poor and downtrodden, may you continue to seek new opportunities to cooperate with civil authorities in advancing the common good.” – Translated conclusion (May 9, 2014, Zenit.org).

... I join all of you in praying for a renewed outpouring of grace upon the beloved Church in Ethiopia and Eritrea. Entrusting you to the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, ...

May 9 – Pope’s Address to the Pontifical Mission Societies: “The Church is the people of the Beatitudes, the home of the poor, of the afflicted, of the excluded and of the persecuted, of those who have hunger and thirst for justice.” – Translated conclusion (May 9, 2014, Zenit.org).

May Mary, Mother of the living Gospel, accompany you always in your effort to support evangelization.

May 10 -- Pope’s Address to Centesimus Annis - Pro Pontifice Foundation: “The crisis of these years, which has a profound cause of an ethical order, has increased this allergy to words such as solidarity, just distribution of goods, priority of work.” – Translated conclusion (May 14, 2014, Zenit.org).

May the Virgin Mary, Mater Boni Consilii, help you ...

May 11 – On the Good Shepherd: “On this Sunday let us pray for the Shepherds of the Church” – Translated conclusion of the Regina Coeli address (May 11, 2014, Zenit.org).

Entrusting them to the mother of Jesus, let us pray to Our Lady for our mothers and for all mothers. “Hail Mary... .

May 12 – Full Text of Pope Francis’ Q&A With Seminarians in Rome: “For leadership there is only one way: service. There is no other.” – Translated extract (May 13, 2014, Zenit.org).

The first advice, when the heart is in turmoil is the counsel of the Russian Fathers: go under the mantle of the Holy Mother of God. Remember that the first Latin antiphon is in fact this: in times of turmoil, seek refuge under the mantle of the Holy Mother of God. It is the antiphon “Sub tuum praesidium confugimus, Sancta Dei Genitrix”: It’s the first Latin antiphon of Our Lady. It’s interesting, no? Watch over. Is there turmoil? First of all go there, and there wait until there is a bit of calm: with prayer, with entrustment to Our Lady ... One of you might say to me: “But Father, in this time of such good modernity, of psychology, of psychiatry, in such moments of turmoil I think it would be better to go to a psychiatrist to help me ...” I don’t discard this, but first of all go to your Mother, because a priest who forgets his Mother, especially in moments of turmoil, is lacking something. He is an orphan priest: he has forgotten his Mother! And it is in difficult moments when a child always goes to its Mother. And we are children in the spiritual life. Never forget this! To watch over, to see how my heart is. In times of turmoil go to seek refuge under the mantle of the Holy Mother of God. So say the Russian monks and, in truth, it is so.

For more about what the Pope said about Mary: <http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/full-text-of-pope-francis-q-amp-a-with-seminarians-in-rome>

May 14 – Pope Francis: General Audience– Translated comments (May 14, 2014, Vatican).

May the Virgin Mary, whom we venerate in this month of May, be a teacher of tenderness and love for you, dear

young people, especially you students of Rome's Istituto Settembrini; may she support you, dear sick people, in the harshest moments of solitude and suffering; may she be a model for you, dear newlyweds, of unity and familial harmony.

May 14 – The Pope to Delegation from the “Land of Fire and Poison”: Dignity and the Right to Health Precede Any Other Interest – Translated comments after the General Audience (May 14, 2014, VIS)

In his greetings in various languages at today's general audience, the Holy Father invited Portuguese-speaking pilgrims, among others, to pray the Rosary every day during May, the month of Mary.

May 18 – On Being Guided by the Holy Spirit: “...When we let ourselves be guided by the Holy Spirit, he brings us to harmony, to unity and to respect for different gifts and talents.” – Conclusion of the Regina Coeli address (May 18, 2014, Zenit.org).

May the Virgin Mary help us to be docile to the Holy Spirit, so that we know how to respect each other and be ever more united in faith and charity, keeping our hearts open to the needs of our brothers.
[Comments after the Regina Coeli] Let us pray to Our Lady together for these brothers and sisters, who are in such difficulties. Hail Mary...

May 19 – Pope to Mexican bishops: promote ‘spirit of harmony’ – Translated conclusion (May 19, 2014, Catholic News Agency).

He concluded by invoking Our Lady of Guadalupe, the “Star of the New Evangelization.”

May 19 – Pope Francis’ Address to Apostolates Evangelizing the Sick: “A sick person, a disabled person can become support and light for other people who suffer, in this way transforming the environment in which he lives.” – Translated conclusion (May 19, 2014, Zenit.org).

... may Our Lady help you to be true “workers of the Cross” and true “volunteers of suffering,” living the crosses and suffering with faith and love, together with Christ.

May 21 – Pope Francis: General Audience – Translated comments (May 21, 2014, Vatican).

Let us all pray together for these people, Hail Mary....

On 24 May we celebrate the liturgical memory of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Help of Christians, venerated with great devotion at the Shrine of Sheshan in Shanghai. I ask all the faithful to pray that, under the protection of the Mater Auxiliatrice, Catholics in China may continue to believe, to hope and to love and that they may be, in every circumstance, a leaven of harmonious coexistence among their fellow citizens.

May 24 – Pope’s Homily in Amman's International Stadium: “Peace is strengthened...if we never forget that we have the same heavenly Father and are all His children, made in His image and likeness.” – Translated excerpt (May 24, 2014, Zenit.org).

Yet the Holy Spirit, present from the beginning of salvation history, had already been at work in Jesus from the moment of His conception in the virginal womb of Mary of Nazareth, by bringing about the wondrous event of the Incarnation: “the Holy Spirit will come upon you, will overshadow you – the Angel said to Mary – and you will give birth to a son who will be named Jesus” (cf. Lk 1:35).

May 25 – Holy Mass in Manger Square in Bethlehem – Translated excerpts of homily (May 25, 2014, Vatican.va).

Are we like Mary and Joseph, who welcomed Jesus and care for Him with the love of a father and a mother? ... Mary, Mother of Jesus, you who accepted, teach us how to accept; you who adored, teach us how to adore; you who followed, teach us how to follow. Amen.

May 25 – Pope’s Regina Coeli Address in Manger Square: “We entrust the future of our human family to Mary Most Holy, that new horizons may open in our world, with the promise of fraternity, solidarity and peace.” – Translated beginning (May 25, 2014, Zenit).

... our thoughts turn to Mary Most Holy, who here, in Bethlehem, gave birth to Jesus her Son. Our Lady is the one who, more than any other person, contemplated God in the human face of Jesus. Assisted by Saint Joseph, she wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in the manger.

For more about what the Pope said about Mary: <http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/pope-s-regina-coeli-address-in-manger-square>

May 25 – Joint Declaration of Pope Francis and the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew: Our Common Search Does Not Distance Us from the Truth – Translated conclusion (May 26, 2014, VIS).

... we humbly commend to the intercession of the Most Holy and Ever Virgin Mary our future steps on the path towards the fullness of unity, entrusting to God’s infinite love the entire human family.

May 25 – Ecumenical Encounter in the Holy Sepulchre: Let Us Not Deprive the World of the Proclamation of the Resurrection – Translated conclusion (May 26, 2014, VIS).

And when disunity makes us pessimistic, distrusting, fearful, let us all commend ourselves to the protection of the Holy Mother of God. When there is spiritual turmoil in the Christian soul, it is only by seeking refuge under her mantle that we can find peace. May the Holy Mother of God help us on this journey.

May 26 – Francis on the Mount of Olives: Stand by Those Crosses Where Jesus Continues to Be Crucified (May 26, 2014, VIS).

Or, thanks be to God, do I find myself among those who remained faithful to the end, like the Virgin Mary and the Apostle John? ... The love of the Mother and the beloved disciple made them stay at the foot of the Cross, sharing in the pain of Jesus, to the very end.

... let us imitate the Virgin Mary and Saint John, and stand by all those crosses where Jesus continues to be crucified.

May 26 – In the Cenacle, Where the Church Was Born to Go Forth -Translated excerpts (May 26, 2014, VIS).

Here ... where the Holy Spirit descended with power upon Mary and the disciples, ...

Lastly, the Upper Room reminds us of the birth of the new family, the Church, our holy Mother the hierarchical Church established by the risen Jesus; a family that has a Mother, the Virgin Mary.

May 28 – Audience Address: On the Trip to the Holy Land: “With this pilgrimage, I wished to take a word of hope, but I also received it in return!” Translated conclusion (May 28, 2014, Zenit).

And I invite you all now to pray together, to pray together to Our Lady, Queen of Peace, Queen of Christian Unity, the Mother of all Christians: may she give us and the whole world peace, and may she accompany us on this path of unity. [Ave Maria]

... We are about to conclude the Marian month. Dear young people, may the Mother of God be your refuge in the most difficult moments; may she support you, dear sick, in facing your daily cross with courage and may she be your reference, dear newlyweds, so that your family is a domestic hearth of prayer and mutual understanding. Thank you.

May 30 – Pope’s Message to Meeting of Catholic Charities on Syria: “I ask all parties that,

looking to the common good, agree right away on the work of humanitarian assistance, to silence the weapons and to commit themselves to negotiate.” -Translated conclusion (June 2, 2014, Zenit).

May Our Lady protect you.

May 31 – Conclusion of the Month of May: Mary Is Our Lady of Prompt Succour -Translated excerpts of address to a Rosary procession in the Vatican Lourdes Grotto (June 1, 2014, VIS).

Today, at the end of the month of May, we celebrate the feast day that commemorates her visit to St. Elizabeth. The Gospel tells us that, after the angel's annunciation, she went in haste, she went immediately to serve. This is the virgin of readiness ... Our Lady of Prompt Succour. She immediately comes to our assistance when we pray, when we ask for help and protection. In many moments in life, when we need her help and her protection, let us remember that she does not make us wait: she is the Virgin of Prompt Succour and immediately comes to our aid.