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The Marian Thoughts of Pope Francis

July 2013



Jul. 6 – Pope Francis Address to Seminarians and Novices (Part 1) – Translated extract (July 09, 2013, Zenit.org).

Once a priest, a good priest, who didn't feel he was a good priest because he was humble, felt himself a sinner and prayed much to Our Lady and said this to Our Lady – I will say it in Spanish because it's a lovely poem: "This afternoon, Lady, the promise is sincere. Just in case, don't forget to leave the key outside." But this is said thinking always of love for the Virgin; it is said to Our Lady....

Jul. 6 – Pope Francis Address to Seminarians and Novices (Part 3) – Translated conclusion (July 11, 2013, Zenit.org).

Have Our Lady always with you, pray the Rosary, please ... Don't abandon it! Always have Our Lady with you in your home, as the Apostle John had her. May she always accompany you and protect you. ...And we also have a Mother. In our own language we say the Hail Mary.

Jul. 6 – Pope Francis: Be Fearless, Humble and Joyful Witnesses to the Gospel – Translated conclusion of address to seminarians, novices and those discerning their vocation (July 9, 2013, VIS).

...Keep the Virgin Mary with you always, and please, pray the Rosary, do not forget! Keep Our Lady with you in your homes, just as the Apostle John did. May she accompany and protect you always.

Jul. 7 – The Pope to Seminarians, Novices and Those Discerning Their Vocations: Our Mission Is to Encounter the Lord Who Consols and to Console the People of God – Translated conclusion (July 7, 2013, VIS).

Dear friends, with great confidence I entrust you to the intercession of Mary Most Holy. She is the Mother who helps us to take life decisions freely and without fear. May she help you to bear witness to the joy of God's consolation, without being afraid of joy, she will help you to conform yourselves to the logic of love of the Cross, to grow in ever deeper union with the Lord in prayer.

Jul. 7 – Pope's Address to Participants of Cause of Sainthood for Cardinal Francois-

Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan – (July 07, 2013, Zenit.org).

We entrust the prosecution of this cause along with all the others that are underway to the intercession of the Virgin Mary. May Our Lady help us to live more and more in our lives the beauty and the joy of communion with Christ.

Jul. 7 – On the Joy of Announcing the Gospel – Translated extract of the Angelus address (July 07, 2013, Zenit.org).

May Our Lady help us to be good workers for the Gospel.

... I place it [the encyclical, *Lumen fidei*] in the hands of Mary, the perfect icon of faith, that it may bear that fruit that the Lord wants.

...may Our Lady accompany us ...

Jul. 8 – Pope's Marian Prayer at Lampedusa – Translated beginning (July 08, 2013, Zenit.org).

Oh Mary, star of the sea, once again we recourse to thee, to find refuge and serenity, to implore your protection and help.

For more on what Pope Francis said about Mary: [Pope's Homily at Mass in Lampedusa](#)

Jul. 14 – On the Good Samaritan – Translated extracts of the Angelus address (Castel Gandolfo, July 14, 2013, Zenit.org).

Let us entrust this intention to Mary Most Holy. ...

... And there is another intention that I would like to entrust to Our Lady together with all of you. World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro is coming up soon. ... Let us pray then for this great pilgrimage that is beginning, that Our Lady of Aparecida, patroness of Brazil, guide the steps of the participants and open their hearts to welcome the message Christ will give them.

[Comments after the Angelus]

I think also of the pastors and the faithful who are participating in the pilgrimage of the family of Radio Maria to Jasna Góra, Częstochowa, Poland. I entrust you to the protection of the Mother of God and I bless you from my heart.

Jul. 14 –Pope Francis' Address to Employees of Papal Residence at Castel Gandolfo – Translated conclusion (July 14, 2013, Zenit.org).

Dear brothers and sisters, I entrust you to the maternal protection of the Virgin Mary – whom we will honor as Virgin of Mount Carmel in two days – that you might be able to carry out your duties in a profitable and serene manner. May Our Lady always watch over you and your families!

Jul. 19 – Francis' Message on Anniversary of WWII Bombing of Rome: "Peace is a gift of God, which, also today, must find hearts willing to receive it" – Translated conclusion (July 22, 2013, Zenit.org)..

I entrust all the inhabitants of the district of San Lorenzo, especially the elderly, the sick, people who are alone and in difficulty, to the maternal intercession of Mary *Salus Populi Romani*. May she, the Virgin of tenderness and consolation, reinforce faith, hope and charity to radiate in the world the love and mercy of God.

Jul. 21 – On Contemplating the Word of God – Translated extracts of the Angelus address (July 21, 2013, Zenit.org).

Let us ask the Virgin Mary, the Mother of listening and service – who teaches us to meditate on the Word of her Son in our heart – to pray with fidelity, to be always more concretely attentive to the needs of our brothers.

[After the Angelus]

Let us entrust these questions to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, much loved and venerated in Brazil: those that the young people will ask there and those that you will ask today. And may Our Lady help us in this new stage of pilgrimage.

Jul. 23 – Pope's Address at Welcoming Ceremony in Rio de Janeiro – Translated conclusion (July 23, 2013, Zenit.org).

In two days' time, God willing, I will remember all of you before Our Lady of Aparecida, invoking her maternal protection on your homes and families.

Jul. 24 – Pope's Homily at National Shrine of Our Lady of Conception in Aparecida – Translated opening (July 24, 2013, Zenit.org).

What joy I feel as I come to the house of the Mother of every Brazilian, the Shrine of our Lady of Aparecida! The day after my election as Bishop of Rome, I visited the Basilica of Saint Mary Major in Rome, in order to entrust my ministry as the Successor of Peter to Our Lady. Today I have come here to ask Mary our Mother for the success of World Youth Day and to place at her feet the life of the people of Latin America.

For more on what Pope Francis said about Mary visit: [Pope's Reflections in Aparecida](#)

Jul. 24 – Impromptu Address by Pope Francis From the Balcony of the Basilica of the Shrine of Our Lady of Aparecida, After Mass – Translated extracts (Jul. 24, 2013, Vatican.va).

... does a mother forget her children? [No...] She does not forget us, she loves us and takes care of us. Now we ask her for a blessing.

... May Our Lady of Aparecida protect you....

Jul. 25 – Pope Francis' Address in the Neighborhood of Varginha in the Manguinhos Favela – Translated conclusion (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 25, 2013, Zenit.org).

I entrust all this to the intercession of Our Lady of Aparecida, Mother of all the poor of Brazil...

Jul. 25 – Pope Francis' Address at Sao Francisco De Assis Na Providencia Hospital – (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 25, 2013, Zenit.org).

And trust in the maternal love of his Mother Mary. This morning, in the Shrine of Aparecida, I entrusted each of you to her heart. Where there is a cross to carry, she, our Mother, is always there with us. I leave you in her hands...

Jul. 26 – The Pope to the Young: The Faith Is a Copernican Revolution – Translated conclusion (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 26, 2013, VIS).

...in this celebration we have welcomed the image of Our Lady of Aparecida. With Mary, we ask her to teach us how to follow Jesus, to teach us to how to be disciples and missionaries.

Jul. 26 – On the Feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne –Translated extract of the Angelus address (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 26, 2013, Zenit.org).

The Angelus prayer is a beautiful popular expression of the faith. It is a simple prayer, recited at three specific times during the day. It thus punctuates the rhythm of our daily activities: in the morning, at midday, and at sunset. But it is an important prayer. I encourage each of you to recite it, along with the Hail Mary

For more on what Pope Francis said about Mary visit: [On the Feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne](#)

Jul. 26 – Pope's Homily During World Youth Day Prayer Service in Copacabana –Translated conclusion (July 26, 2013, Zenit.org).

... in this celebration we have welcomed the image of Our Lady of Aparecida. With Mary, may we be disciples and missionaries. Like her, may we say "Yes" to God. Let us ask that her maternal heart intercede for us, so that our hearts may be open to loving Jesus and making others love him.

Jul. 26 – Pope's Address to Argentinian Youth –Translated extract (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 26, 2013, Zenit.org).

... we will bless the image of the Virgin ..., which will go on mission throughout the Republic.

... And now we are going to pray to bless the image of the Virgin ...

For more on what Pope Francis said about Mary visit: [Pope's Address to Argentinian Youth](#)

Jul. 26 – Pope's Address During Stations of the Cross – Translated extract (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 27, 2013, Zenit.org).

... how many times have they accompanied Jesus on the way to Calvary: ... Mary, ...?

..... Or are you .. like Mary and the other women, who were not afraid to accompany Jesus all the way to the end, with love and tenderness.? And you, who do you want to be? ... Like Mary?

Jul. 27 – Francis' Address to Bishops: "More than a formal address, I would like to share some reflections with you" – Translated extract (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 27, 2013, Zenit.org).

The first came to mind when I visited the shrine of Aparecida. There, at the foot of the statue of the Immaculate Conception, I prayed for you, your Churches, your priests, men and women religious, seminarians, laity and their families and, in a particular way, the young people and the elderly: these last are the hope of a nation; the young, because they bring strength, idealism and hope for the future; the elderly because they represent the memory, the wisdom of the people.

For more on what Pope Francis said about Mary visit: [Pope Francis' Address to Bishops](#)

Jul. 27 – Pope's Address to Brazilian Leaders – Translated conclusion (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 27, 2013, Zenit.org).

I entrust you to our Heavenly Father, asking him, through the intercession of Our Lady of Aparecida, to pour out his gifts on each of you, on your families and on your communities and workplaces.

Jul. 27 – Pope's Address at Prayer Vigil in Copacabana Beach –Translated conclusion (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 28, 2013, Zenit.org).

Let us lift our gaze to Our Lady. Mary helps us to follow Jesus, she gives us the example by her own "yes" to God: "I am the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me as you say" (Lk 1:38). All together, let us join Mary in saying to God: let it be done to me as you say.

Jul. 28 – Pope's Address to CELAM –Translated extract (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 29, 2013, Zenit.org).

4) The presence of Our Lady, Mother of America

It was the first conference of the bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean to be held in a Marian shrine.

Jul. 28 – Pope's Homily at Closing Mass of World Youth Day at Copacabana Beach– Translated conclusion (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 28, 2013, Zenit.org).

May Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, always accompany you with her tenderness ...

Jul. 28 – On Mary: Our Model and Mother –Translated extract of the Angelus address (Rio de Janeiro,

Brazil, July 28, 2013, Zenit.org).

Now let us turn our gaze to our heavenly Mother, the Virgin Mary.

... The Immaculate Virgin intercedes for us in heaven as a good mother who watches over her children. May Mary teach us by her life what it means to be a missionary disciple. Every time we pray the Angelus, we recall the event that changed the history of mankind forever. When the Angel Gabriel proclaimed to Mary that she would become the Mother of Jesus the Saviour, even without understanding the full significance of that call, she trusted God and replied: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" (Lk1:38). But what did she do immediately afterwards? On receiving the grace of being the Mother of the Incarnate Word, she did not keep that gift to herself; she set off, she left her home and went in haste to help her kinswoman Elizabeth, who was in need of assistance (cf. Lk1:38-39); she carried out an act of love, of charity, of practical service, bringing Jesus who was in her womb. And she did all this in haste!

For more on what Pope Francis said about Mary visit: [On Mary: Our Model and Mother](#)

Jul. 28 – Press Conference of Pope Francis During the Return Flight–(July 28, 2013, Vatican.va)

I ask Our Lady too to pray to the Lord for me.

A Church without women is like the college of the Apostles without Mary. The role of women in the Church is not simply that of maternity, being mothers, but much greater: it is precisely to be the icon of the Virgin, of Our Lady; what helps make the Church grow! But think about it, Our Lady is more important than the Apostles! She is more important!

...Our Lady, Mary, was more important than the Apostles, than bishops and deacons and priests.

...[John XXIII] would pray the Rosary, ...

Jul. 29 – Pope Francis Address at Farewell Ceremony–Translated conclusion (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 29, 2013, Zenit.org).

Finally, my thoughts turn to Our Lady of Aparecida, to whom I also bid farewell. In that beloved Shrine I knelt to pray for the entire human family and in particular for all Brazilians. I implored Mary to strengthen you in the Christian faith, which forms part of the noble soul of Brazil, as indeed of many other countries.

Jul. 31 – Pope Francis' Homily on the Feast of Saint Ignatius –Translated conclusion (July 31, 2013, Zenit.org).

Dear brothers, let us turn to Our Lady. She who carried Christ in her womb and accompanied the first steps of the Church, may she help us to place Christ and his Church always at the center of our life and our ministry; She who was the first and the most perfect disciple of her Son, may help us to let ourselves be conquered by Christ to follow and serve Him in every situation. She who responded to the announcement of the Angel with the most profound humility: Behold the servant of the Lord, be it done to me according to your word. (Lk. 1,38), may she makes us taste the shame of our inadequateness in front of the treasure that has been entrusted to us, to live humbly in front of God.