

APRIL 22
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
MOTHER OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS
FEAST

On September 27, 1540, Paul III approved the first Formula of the Society of Jesus and gave his permission for the drawing up of Constitutions. On April 22 of the following year, Saint Ignatius, who by now had been elected General, and his companions took their solemn vows in the Basilica of Saint Paul in Rome before Our Lady's image. With good reason, therefore, this day is regarded as the birthday of the Society. It is celebrated every year as the feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Society of Jesus.

From the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, except for the following.

INVITATORY

Ant.: Come, let us adore Jesus, the Son of Mary, alleluia.

Invitatory Psalm as in the Ordinary

THE OFFICE OF READINGS

Hymn

O Mary, conceived in the grace of your Son,
The first fruits of vict'ry on Calvary won!
He chose you as Mother to bring him to birth,
The one fitting shrine for his dwelling on earth!

Immaculate Virgin, with motherhood blest,
True God is the Child that in your womb did rest!
With you shall we ever "Magnificat" sing,
Whose Son is our Maker and Savior and King!

O Mother, who stood by your Son till his death,
Still stand by your children till life's dying breath!
O pray for us all as in glory you share
Your Son's resurrection, his masterpiece fair!

Psalmody

Ant. 1: Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you, alleluia.

Ant. 2: The Holy Spirit will come upon you, Mary, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you, alleluia.

Ant. 3: Mary said: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord: be it done unto me according to your word, alleluia."

V. Blessed are you, Mary, because you believed the Lord, alleluia.

R. What was said to you has been brought to pass in you, alleluia.

First Reading

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (7:10-14; 8:10; 11:1-9)

Immanuel, King and Peacemaker

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be as deep as Sheol or as high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." And Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel, for God is with us."

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the

Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the girdle of his waist, and faithfulness the girdle of his loins.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall feed; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The suckling child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Responsory (Is. 7:14; 9:6, 7)

R. Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, alleluia.

V. He will sit upon the throne of David and over his kingdom for ever, alleluia. And his name. . . .

Second Reading

(From the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*, of the Second Vatican Council [nn. 61-62]. Trans. W.M. Abbott, S.J., and J. Gallagher [New York, London, Dublin, 1966].)

The Motherhood of Mary in the Economy of Grace

The Blessed Virgin was eternally predestined, in conjunction with the incarnation of the divine Word, to be the Mother of God. By decree of divine Providence, she served on earth as the loving mother of the divine Redeemer, an associate of unique nobility, and the Lord's humble handmaid. She conceived, brought forth, and nourished Christ. She presented Him to the Father in the temple, and was united with Him in suffering as He died on the cross. In an utterly singular way she cooperated by her obedience, faith, hope, and burning charity in the Savior's work of restoring supernatural life to souls. For this reason she is a mother to us in the order of grace.

This maternity of Mary in the order of grace began with the consent which she gave in faith at the Annunciation and which she sustained without wavering beneath the cross. This maternity will last without interruption until the eternal fulfillment of all the elect. For, taken up to heaven, she did not lay aside this saving role, but by her manifold acts of intercession continues to win for us gifts of eternal salvation.

By her maternal charity, Mary cares for the brethren of her Son who still journey on earth surrounded by dangers and difficulties, until they are led to their happy fatherland. Therefore the Blessed Virgin is invoked by the Church under the titles of Advocate, Auxiliatrix, Adjutrix, and

Mediatrix. These, however, are to be so understood that they neither take away from nor add anything to the dignity and efficacy of Christ the one Mediator.

For no creature could ever be classed with the Incarnate Word and Redeemer. But, just as the priesthood of Christ is shared in various ways both by sacred ministers and by the faithful, and as the one goodness of God is in reality communicated diversely to his creatures, so also the unique mediation of the Redeemer does not exclude but rather gives rise among creatures to a manifold cooperation which is but a sharing in this unique source.

The Church does not hesitate to profess this subordinate role of Mary. She experiences it continuously and commends it to the hearts of the faithful, so that, encouraged by her maternal help, they may more closely adhere to the Mediator and Redeemer.

Responsory

R. Holy and spotless virginity, I know not with what praises to extol you; for you carried in your womb him whom the heavens could not contain, alleluia.

V. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, alleluia.

Te Deum

Concluding Prayer: as at Morning Prayer

MORNING PRAYER

Hymn

Hail, Mary, full of gladness
At your Annunciation
When Gabriel proclaimed the Incarnation
Of God's own Son and yours to banish sadness!
Hail, Mary, full of gladness,
Hail, Mary, full of gladness!

Hail, Mary, Virgin-Mother!
What joy was yours, O Maiden,
Your virgin womb with Child so sweetly laden,
The dwelling of God's Son and of none other!
Hail, Mary, Virgin-Mother,
Hail, Mary, Virgin-Mother!

Hail, Mary, our dear Mother!
So dares the Church to name you!
Our Mother we on earth may proudly claim you,
For we are one with Christ, your Son, our Brother,
Hail, Mary, our dear Mother,
Hail, Mary, our dear Mother!

Psalmody

Ant. 1: The glorious dawn of our salvation came from you, Virgin Mary. He is the Sun of Justice, who visited us like the day star from on high, alleluia.

(Psalms and canticle of Sunday, Week 1)

Ant. 2: O how chaste was the mother, who knew no stain, that was worthy to carry God, alleluia.

Ant. 3: You have been blessed by the Lord, the most high God, above all women on earth, Virgin Mary, alleluia.

Scripture Reading (Phil. 2:6-7)

Though he was in the form of God, Christ Jesus did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

Short Responsory

R. Mary, our mother and queen, alleluia, alleluia.
Mary. . . .

V. Make us follow and imitate Jesus Christ, your Son, alleluia, alleluia. Glory be. . . . Mary, . . .

Benedictus Antiphon

The Lord said to the serpent, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; she shall bruise your head," alleluia.

Intercessions: see *Appendix*

Our Father

Concluding Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, you chose the Virgin Mary to be the Mother of your eternal Word. Give us strength to be servants of that Word in the Society of Jesus, which is consecrated to your glory in the presence of Mary, our Mother. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

DAYTIME PRAYER

(Psalms of the occurring weekday)

Before Noon

Ant.: Christ, on entering the world, said, "You have prepared a body for me; behold, I come, O God, to do your will," alleluia.

Scripture Reading: (Apoc. 21:1)

Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

V. Magnify the Lord with me, alleluia.

R. Because great is the mercy of the Lord towards me, alleluia.

Midday

Ant.: God chose her and predestined her, and made her dwell in his tent, alleluia.

Scripture Reading: (Jud. 13:24,25)

Blessed be the Lord, maker of heaven and earth, for he has given you such high renown that your praise shall never die on men's lips, so long as they hold the Lord's power in remembrance.

V. Blessed is the womb of the Virgin Mary, alleluia.

R. Which bore the Son of the eternal Father, alleluia.

Afternoon

Ant.: The Lord lives, because he has brought his mercy to fulfillment in me, alleluia.

Scripture Reading: (Zeph. 3:14, 15)

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst.

V. O how glorious is the mother, alleluia.

R. Who brought to birth Christ Jesus, the King of heaven, alleluia.

Concluding Prayer: as at Morning Prayer

EVENING PRAYER

Hymn

Guide us, Star of Ocean,
Shining in the sky,
God's own Virgin Mother,
Heaven's gate on high!

God invites his handmaid:
Peace on earth renew!
Son of Eve, our mother,
Sinless Eve, undo!

Touch those eyes that see not;
Slaves of sin unchain
Keep us from all evil;
Blessings for us gain!

Chosen as his Mother
By God's Holy One,
Pray for us, your children,
To your Savior-Son!

Spotless Virgin Mother,
Sinners we have been;
Pure and gentle-hearted
Make us, gracious Queen!

Keep us ever holy,
Guide our steps in grace,
Till we share your gladness
When we see God's face!

Praise now God the Father,
Glorify his Son,
Honor God the Spirit,
All in Godhead one!

Psalmody

Ant. 1: The mother of Jesus said, "Do whatever he tells you," alleluia.

(Psalms and canticle from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

Ant. 2: The Lord said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son!"; and to the disciple, "Behold your mother!", alleluia!

Ant. 3: They were all persevering with one heart in prayer, with Mary the mother of Jesus, alleluia.

Scripture Reading (Gal. 4:4-5)

When the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Short Responsory

R. The root of Jesse has sprouted, a star has risen from Jacob, alleluia, alleluia. The root. . . .

V. The virgin has borne the Savior, alleluia, alleluia. Glory be. . . . The root. . . .

Magnificat Antiphon

Behold, you will conceive and bear a son and you will call his name Jesus, alleluia.

Intercessions: *See Appendix*

Our Father

Concluding Prayer: *As at Morning Prayer*