

The Queenship of Mary

Fr. Bill McCarthy

Sister Bernadette and I were in Orlando Florida visiting the Magnificent church of Mary queen of the Universe. There, we venerated the very large mosaic of the Queenship of Mary. There we met the Irish priest who's vision and zeal had brought about the completion of his dream to build a church in honor of Mary as Queen of the Universe. It was this very church that had caused Scott Hahn that magnificent convert to our Catholic faith, the most difficulty in his own conversion. He had learned to accept the Catholic understanding of salvation and sanctification through faith, as well as hope, love and obedience, baptism and Eucharist. Also, he had been given the revelation to see the beauty of the primacy of Peter and the power of the keys, as well as real insights into the real presence of Jesus into the Catholic Mass. this was his last test – for are we not putting Mary on a level with Jesus when we exalt her as queen of the universe. Is not Christ alone king of king and lord of lords. He prated about this and was lead by the Holy Spirit to read in St. Paul that you and I also shall reign with Christ in the heavenlies.

God Shares Everything

For God's plan is to share everything He is and has with us as children. He comes to make us participators in His own divine nature. And everything that He has done in Mary, He will in the final analysis, do with every one of us. Mary would be his first and greatest disciple, but certainly not his last. She would be the touchstone of orthodoxy. What we see reflected in her will also be reflected in us.

Full of Grace

Mary was full of grace, but also so shall we be. ST. Paul says, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing of Christ, for he chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. by the time you and I get to heaven, we too shall be full of grace. After the purifying fires of purgatory, not only will all venial sin but all sinful attachments be purified from our spirits.

Purgatory Purifies Us Fully

Not to believe in purgatory is in reality not to believe in heaven. for heaven is a perfect place and only perfect people can enter it. In the book of Revelation we read that no unclean thing can enter it. In the book of Hebrews we read, see that perfection without which no one can see God." And listening to the very words of Jesus we hear, "Blessed are the pure of heart for they shall see God, Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." The fires of purgatory shall so cleanse us that like Mary we shall be full of grace for ever and ever. She is the model. What God did in her, He shall do in us.

Mother of Jesus

Like Mary, we too are called to be mothers of Jesus, to bear Christ in our spirits. St. Paul says, "I live now, not I but Jesus Christ lives within me." and St. Augustine comments, "Every one of us, male or female are called to be the mothers of Jesus to allow Christ to be born in us through our *fiat, our yes*. And, like Mary, this shall be done through the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit.

Led by the Spirit

As Mary was led by the spirit, so also are we called to be led by the Spirit. Mary who was there when the Holy Spirit fell upon Jesus, was also there when the Holy Spirit fell upon the early Church in the upper room. She who is spouse of the Holy Spirit, is also there when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit. She calls down the Holy Spirit on each of her children as they walk by the Spirit.

The Assumption

As Mary was there at the death of her son and most likely at the death of her husband Joseph, she will most likely be there at our death. When we pray the *Hail Mary*, we ask her to intercede for us "at the hour of our death." When we are finally ready to go home and to be assumed into the everlasting life of the Godhead, she will be there for us as well.

The Coronation

As Mary reigns with Christ in heaven, St. Paul tells us that we, too, shall reign with them forever. We will take our place on the throne that God has prepared for each one of us and be crowned with eternal life forever. Heaven is not only an experience of everlasting joy, love and peace. The real ecstasy of heaven is that we shall be crowned with the Beatific Vision, but also with the very life of God throughout eternity. St. Peter tells us that we are partakers in the divine nature. We participate in the very essence of the Godhead. We are, with Jesus, joint heirs and children of God. We, with unveiled faces, shall reflect like mirrors the brightness of the Son who is our Glory. For it is the work of the Spirit to transform us from glory into glory, into Him whom we reflect. With Christ as our King and Mary as our Queen, we shall receive the crown of everlasting life and reign with them forever and ever.

The Queen Mother

Scott Hahn also researched the role of the queen mother in Israel. During the reign of Solomon, Bathsheba was the queen mother, second in authority only to him. There is

nothing that he would not grant her. This began a whole tradition of queen mother's in Israel. Jesus, the new Solomon, also has a queen mother. This queen mother he gives to us, the members of his mystical body, to be our queen mother. Just as the Israelites would go to the queen mother to intercede for them to the king, so too shall we go to Mary to intercede for us with Christ. It has never been known that anyone who fled to her protection or sought her aid has every been unaided.

The Early Fathers

The Early Fathers saw in the sun and the moon a type of Jesus and Mary. Mary was the moon, Christ was the sun.

Mary the dawn, Christ the Perfect Day;
Mary the gate, Christ the Heavenly Way!

Mary the root, Christ the Mystic Vine;
Mary the grape, Christ the Sacred Wine!

Mary the wheat, Christ the Living Bread;
Mary the stem, Christ the Rose blood-red!

Mary the font, Christ the Cleansing Flood;
Mary the cup, Christ the Saving Blood!

Mary the temple, Christ the temple's Lord;
Mary the shrine, Christ the God adored!

Mary the beacon, Christ the Haven's Rest;
Mary the mirror, Christ the Vision Blest!

Mary the mother, Christ the mother's Son
By all things blest while endless ages run. Amen

What if? ...

Fr. Bill McCarthy, MSA

What if abortion really is the taking of human life? . . .

What if marriage is the only natural and God-accepted way of men and women being involved spiritually, emotionally and sexually? . . .

What if Jesus is the Son of God and the way to salvation? ...

What if there is a heaven for those who obey the Ten Commandments? ...

What if the Ten Commandments are not just ten suggestions? . . .

What if God really does answer prayer? . . .

What if there is a real spiritual and psychological as well as physical differences between men and women? . . .

What if radical feminism includes the right to be born – that is, to be.

What if homosexuality can really be healed by the Spirit of God.

What if you could have a society built upon truth and not lies.

What if you could have civilization built upon justice and generosity, and not upon greed.

what if you could have marriages built upon fidelity and real love and not on infidelity.

What if we really do have a God-given dignity that could be honored and loved and not used.

What if lawyers were really subject to God's laws.

What if our nation could really be a nation under God.

What if politicians were really statesmen of integrity.

What if labor unions were really interested in worker's rights.

What if newspapers were really vehicles of good news.

what if headlines emphasized what was good in the world.

What if blacks and whites really loved one another.

What if leaders called for a war and no one showed up.

What if we really lived in peace with one another.

What if everyone acted justly, loved tenderly and walked humbly with God.

What if the Kingdom of God could really come on earth as it is in heaven.

What if angels were really by our side to help us.

What if churches were filled with the praises and love of God.

What if we all became humble servants, especially to the poor.

What if we all prayed for one another and loved one another and bore each other's burdens.

What if greed and lust and rebellion were replaced by joy, love and peace.

What if it were really what's life is all about.

What if the Spirit of God could enlighten our minds, inflame our hearts, empower our lives so that we could think and love and act like Jesus.

What if there is a hell for those who do not believe in the promises of God.

What if there were only one, holy, true, united Church - one flock with one shepherd.

What if truth was really objective, and not subjective.

What if the Ten Commandments were meant for everyone.

What if all this were really written upon the human heart.

Never Too Late To Learn

I Learned That

Fr. Bill McCarthy, MSA

On his 51st birthday, H. Jackson Brown wrote down some of the lessons he had learned during his life. He wrote the phrase, *I learned that* 20 times on a piece of paper and proceeded to complete the sentence. So enjoyable was the exercise that he began asking his friends and family to do the same. The result was a fascinating book entitled, *Live and Learn and Pass It On*. Here are a few examples from his book.

A twenty-year-old: "I've learned that trust is the single most important factor in both personal and professional relationships."

An eighty-two-year-old: "I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be a pain."

A fifty-four-year-old woman: "I've learned that you can't hug your kids too much."

A fifty-two-year-old woman: "I've learned that you can tell a lot about a man by the way he handles these three things: a rainy holiday, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights."

A seven-year-old: "I've learned that you can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk."

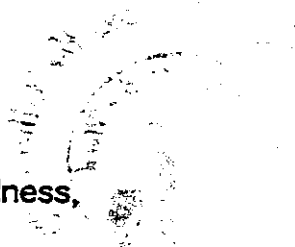
I'd like to add some of my own.

Some years ago, Robert Fulghum of the *Kansas City Star Times*, wrote a book: *Everything I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*. He said, "Most of what I really need to know to live I learned there."

There I learned to:

- share everything
- play fair
- don't hit people
- put things back where you found them
- clean up after your own mess
- don't take things that aren't yours
- say you're sorry when you hurt somebody
- wash your hands before you eat
- take a nap every afternoon
- when you go out into the world, watch for the traffic, hold hands and stick together

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As I write this, I asked different people to complete the sentence.

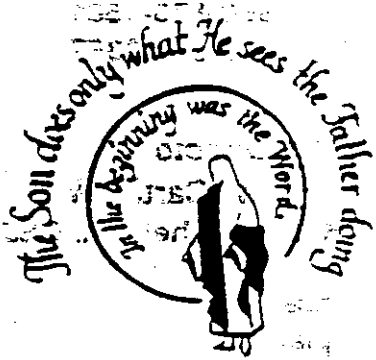
Mary said, "Politeness never goes out of style. Love is found in our kindness, thoughtfulness and ability to share with others."

Winston said, "Respect people, always be helpful to people and have patience."

Brenda said, "Don't judge people. You find friends in the most unexpected places."

Howard, "It is better to give than to receive. And you have to work for what you want."

And I have learned that Jesus is really alive in our hearts, speaking to us, healing and helping us. What is it that you have learned. Right now, would you complete this sentence. I've learned that ...



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GOD'S TEN COMMANDMENTS

- THEY ARE
- 1) God's Wisdom
 - 2) God's Basic Norms for Holiness
 - 3) God's Borders for Basic Spiritual & Mental Health
 - 4) God's Prescriptions for a New World Order
 - 5) God's Demands for Social Life
 - 6) God's Textbook for Open, Loving Relationships
 - 7) God's Objective View of Reality for All Men and Women
 - 8) Written into the Nature and Hearts of All
 - 9) The Fulfillment of the Natural Law
 - 10) Valid for Everyone. Everywhere and Always

- ARE NOT
- 1) Human Inventions
 - 2) Man's Subjective View of Reality
 - 3) Private Opinions
 - 4) Multiple Choice
 - 5) Suggestions that Moses brought down from the mountain
 - 6) Only meant for those who believe
 - 7) Only valid for Jewish followers of Yahweh
 - 8) Only meant for Christians
 - 9) Only meant for those who study the Bible
 - 10) Subjective, human interpretations of morality

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS ARE GOD'S INFALLIBLE, BASIC COMMANDS FOR EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE, ALWAYS. THEY CANNOT BE CHANGED, ALTERED OR CONTRADICTED AND SO,

- 1) EVERYONE MUST WORSHIP GOD
- 2) EVERYONE MUST REVERENCE HIS NAME
- 3) EVERYONE MUST KEEP THE SABBATH HOLY
- 4) EVERYONE MUST HONOR THEIR PARENTS
- 5) NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO KILL
- 6) NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO COMMIT ADULTERY
- 7) NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO STEAL
- 8) NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO LIE
- 9) NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO LUST AFTER ANOTHER'S SPOUSE
- 10) NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO BE GREEDY