

**9<sup>th</sup> September 2018**  
***THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST***  
***MIRACLE OF MARIA BAMBINA***



***With Mary along the path of charity***

**Introduction**

The blessed Institute of Charity, on whose foundation Saint Bartolomea, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September 1828 invoked the sweet protection of Maria Bambina, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 1884, showed the power of her intercession among us.

Mary, in the image of her nativity, has always accompanied us a mother. She has sustained us and has gone before us in our service of charity. In this time of poverty let us entrust our dear Institute family and plead for holy vocations, humble and courageous companions in the fellowship of Jesus like Bartolomea and Vincenza, and like so many sisters of ours who constitute today the family of the Sisters of Charity in Heaven.

**The first mystery: *Holy Mary, the chaste one***

*So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart (LK 2:16-19)*

“Mary, the bride of the Spirit, the virgin who gave birth to Christ, introduces us into his mystery; she teaches us to keep his Word in our hearts and to unite ourselves to him, so that through us, too, Christ may be formed in our brethren.” (Cs 15)

Intention: for all consecrated men and women

### **The second mystery: *Holy Mary, the poor of the Lord***

*And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me - holy is his name (Lk 1:46-49)*

"The contemplation of Mary who "stands out among the poor and the humble of the Lord" will help us to keep our hearts free, to enjoy spiritual things and to overcome all forms of self-assertion both as individuals and as communities, through a constant conversion of mentality and attitudes." (Cs 21)

Intention: for all the migrants.

### **The third mystery: *Holy Mary, the obedient one***

*In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end. "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the*

*holy one to be born will be called[a] the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.” “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her (Lk 1:26-38)*

“Let our “yes” to the Lord be uttered with Mary who even she could not understand, believed in his word.” (Cs 28)

Intention: for all the families

### **The fourth mystery: *Holy Mary, the hope and dawn of salvation***

*Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman, here is your son,” and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home (Jn 19:25b-27)*

“By the providential plan of God, Mary has always accompanied us from the origins of our Institute. Her birth, the hope and dawn of salvation for the whole world, is an invitation for us to live in an attitude of simplicity and total self-surrender to the initiative of the Father.” (Cs 8)

Intention: for our Institute family

### **The fifth mystery: *Holy Mary, the bearer of joy***

*At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and*

*Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!” (Lk 1:39-45)*

“Let us deepen the joy of our vocation, turning with trust for inspiration to the Blessed Virgin who kept the word of God in her heart and expressed it in charity and the joy of the Magnificat.” (cf. Cs 72)

Intention: for the youth and the forthcoming Synod.

## **Concluding prayer**

“Dear child, for the sake of your infancy give also to me a holy spiritual infancy, whereby just like a child I may have no will, intellect, desire or bent except for what God wills. Give me also the grace to be born again with you to a spiritual and devout life. Grant me fresh fervour, grant me love, grant me inner silence and a true spirit of prayer, grant me a self denying, patient spirit lastly grant me your lovely purity, your profound humility.

I recommend to you our dear Institute. Before your cradle I now kneel. Here I will learn how to love God, how to avoid offending Him, how to serve Him, and you, most faithfully, in a word, how to become a saint. I commend all to you: parent and relatives, sinners, youth, families and the whole world.

O Mary, lift your tender little hand from your Cradle and on all of us impart your Holy Blessing.”

(cf. Writings vol. III, 740-741)