



**SIXTH DAY: 4/9**

**MOTHER OF GOD AT THE CENTER OF THE PILGRIM CHURCH:**

**THE PATH OF THE CHURCH AND THE UNITY OF ALL**

The ecumenical movement, on the basis of a clearer and more widespread awareness of the urgent need to achieve the unity of all Christians, has found on the part of the Catholic Church its culminating expression in the work of the Second Vatican Council: Christians must deepen in themselves and each of their communities that "obedience of faith" of which Mary is the first and brightest example. And since she "shines forth on earth,...as a sign of sure hope and solace for the pilgrim People of God", "it gives great joy and comfort to this most holy Synod that among the divided brethren, too, there are those who live due honour to the Mother of our Lord and Saviour. This is especially so among the Easterners [RM n 29].

*Meditating on the **sorrowful** mysteries*

**Let us pray for UNITY AND PEACE OF PEOPLES**

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**1<sup>st</sup> mystery: JESUS AGONIZES IN GETHSEMANE**

*He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want". (Mk 14: 36)*

Jesus, in the Garden of Olives you reveal to us the human face of your being Son of the Father. As during her entire life, Mary is united with you Jesus in your passion and death for humanity. Through her intercession, let us ask that **each person be given** the strength and the joy of making one's life a gift.

*Our Father, Hail Mary (10), Gloria*

All. **Maria Bambina, pray for the unity and peace of peoples.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> mystery: JESUS IS SCOURGED**

*Pilate took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood..." and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. (Mt 27: 24, 26)*

Jesus allowed himself to be scourged to manifest the merciful face of God. Mary lets her soul be pierced by the sword but she knows to forgive and remain faithful. Through his intercession, let us ask that **those who are persecuted be given** the perseverance to resist and overcome hatred with love and abounding goodness.

*Our Father, Hail Mary (10), Gloria*

All. **Maria Bambina, pray for the unity and peace of peoples.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> mystery: JESUS IS CROWNED WITH THORNS**

*And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. (Mk 15: 17)*

In his letting himself be crowned, Jesus invites us not to seek the crowns that fall, but the crown of God that is conquered by giving life, by living in love, by serving others with humility. Mary is with Him and together with the Son she offers herself. Through her intercession, let us ask the grace to **give to everyone** the courage of love and solidarity.

*Our Father, Hail Mary (10), Gloria*

All. ***Maria Bambina, pray for the unity and peace of peoples***

#### **4<sup>th</sup> mystery: JESUS CARRIES THE CROSS**

*As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. (Lk 23: 26)*

On his journey under the weight of the cross, Jesus lets himself be helped by those who pass by. Mary is beside him even when everything seems to be lost; she is with him and walks with him. Through her intercession, let us ask that **the man of this world be given** the hope of those who know they are never alone and the courage to come close to humanity crucified by life.

*Our Father, Hail Mary (10), Gloria*

All. ***Maria Bambina, pray for the unity and peace of peoples***

#### **5<sup>th</sup> mystery: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS**

*When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." (Jn 19: 26-27)*

Jesus on the cross offers his life to the Father for all humanity and hands over his Mother to all of us. Mary, at the Cross, welcomes the whole humanity, not only saints but also sinners and thus accepts her role as *Mother of mercy*. Through her intercession, let us ask that **the Church be given** a new evangelical impetus in the proclamation of the Word and in the witness of the merciful love.

*Our Father, Hail Mary (10), Gloria*

All. ***Maria Bambina, pray for the unity and peace of peoples.***

#### ***Hail holy Queen...***

Hymn: Alzate, o Maria, dalla vostra culla,  
alzate la tenera vostra manina,  
e a tutti impartite  
la santa benedizione (2).