



FIFTH DAY: 3/9

**MOTHER OF GOD AT THE CENTER OF THE PILGRIM CHURCH:
the Church, the people of God gathered in all the
nations of the earth**

Mary belongs indissolubly to the mystery of Christ, and she belongs also to the mystery of the Church from the beginning, from the day of the Church's birth. At the basis of what the Church has been from the beginning, and of what she must continually become from generation to generation, in the midst of all the nations of the earth, we find the one "who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord" (Lk. 1:45). It is precisely Mary's faith, which marks the beginning of the new and eternal Covenant of God with man in Jesus Christ; this heroic faith of hers "precedes" the apostolic witness of the Church, and ever remains in the Church's heart hidden like a special heritage of God's revelation. All those who from generation to generation accept the apostolic witness of the Church share in that mysterious inheritance, and in a sense share in Mary's faith [RM n 27].

Meditating on the mysteries of light

Let us pray for the **CHURCH**

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

1st mystery: JESUS IS BAPTIZED BY JOHN IN THE JORDAN

In those days, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased" (Mk 1: 9-11).

Christ is the supreme Teacher, the revealer and the one revealed. It is not just a question of learning what he taught but of "*learning him*". In this regard, could we have any better teacher than Mary? ... no one can introduce us to a profound knowledge of his mystery better than his Mother. Virgin Mother of the Church, help us always to be accountable for the hope that is in us by trusting in the goodness of man and in the love of the Father (St John Paul II).

Our Father, Hail Mary (10), Gloria

All. *Maria Bambina, support the path of the Church*

2nd mystery: JESUS CHANGES WATER INTO WINE AT THE WEDDING OF CANA

When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come". His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." (Jn 2: 3-5)

The first of the "signs" worked by Jesus – the changing of water into wine at the marriage in Cana – clearly shows Mary in the role of a teacher, as she urges the servants to do what Jesus commands (cf. Jn 2:5). We can imagine that she would have done likewise for the disciples after Jesus' Ascension, when she joined them in awaiting the Holy Spirit and supported them in their first mission. Mary Mother of hope, walk with us! Intercede for us who work in history certain that the Father's plan will be fulfilled (idem)

Our Father, Hail Mary (10), Gloria

All. *Maria Bambina, support the path of the Church*

3rd mystery: *JESUS ANNOUNCES THAT THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NEAR*

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people (Mt 4: 23).

In the spiritual journey, based on the constant contemplation – in Mary's company – of the face of Christ, this demanding ideal of being conformed to him is pursued through an association which could be described in terms of friendship. It introduces us in a natural way into the life of Christ and makes us “breathe” his feelings. Virgin of hope, prophecy of the new era, we join in your song of praise to announce the coming of the Kingdom and the full liberation of man (idem)

Our Father, Hail Mary (10), Gloria

All. *Maria Bambina, support the path of the Church*

4th mystery: *JESUS IS TRANSFIGURED BEFORE THREE DISCIPLES ON THE MOUNTAIN*

And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" (Lk 9: 29, 35).

To look upon the face of Christ, to recognize its mystery amid the daily events and the sufferings of his human life, and then to grasp the divine splendour definitively revealed in the Risen Lord, seated in glory at the right hand of the Father: this is the task of every follower of Christ and therefore the task of each one of us. Virgin Mary, model of holiness, help us to overcome our mediocrity. Instil in our hearts the desire and purpose of perfection (idem).

Our Father, Hail Mary (10), Gloria

All. *Maria Bambina, support the path of the Church*

5th mystery: *JESUS GIVES HIMSELF IN THE EUCHARIST*

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many (Mk 14: 22-24).

In contemplating Christ's face we become open to receiving the mystery of Trinitarian life, experiencing ever anew the love of the Father and delighting in the joy of the Holy Spirit. O Mary, help of Christians, we turn to you in our needs with love, with free hands and ardent hearts. We raise our hands for the Bread of Life. We open our hearts to receive the Prince of Peace (idem).

Our Father, Hail Mary (10), Gloria

All. *Maria Bambina, support the path of the Church*

Hail holy Queen...

Hymn:

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