



Thoughtful Moments

St. John Baptist de Rossi

Born in Voltaggio, Italy, St. John Baptist de Rossi was born to devout, middle class parents. An excellent student, he was invited to join the Roman College. Ten years later, John was ordained a priest. He spent his days serving the sick and his nights ministering to the poor people of the street. He was especially moved by the suffering of homeless women and bought a house as a hospice for them to stay in.



Make peace

No one wants to be bullied. As Christians, however, we have to be the ones to attempt peace. *"Do not repay anyone evil for evil ... If possible, on your part, live at peace with all"* (Romans 12:17-18). Our solutions must be biblical, not societal.

"Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband, too, praises her: "Many are the women of proven worth, but you have excelled them all" (Proverbs 31:28-29).



Mary gives us her Mother's heart

In the month of May, we honor Mary who was dedicated to bringing the Savior to humanity. Now that she is in Heaven, she continues to bring our concerns to her Son. Praying the "Hail Mary" honors our Heavenly Mother as our mother, too.

Hail Mary, full of grace. Conceived without Original Sin, Mary was predisposed to holiness. Grace helped her to live a difficult life sinless.

The Lord is with thee. Blessed are thou among women: Mary was honored to be chosen as Jesus' mother.

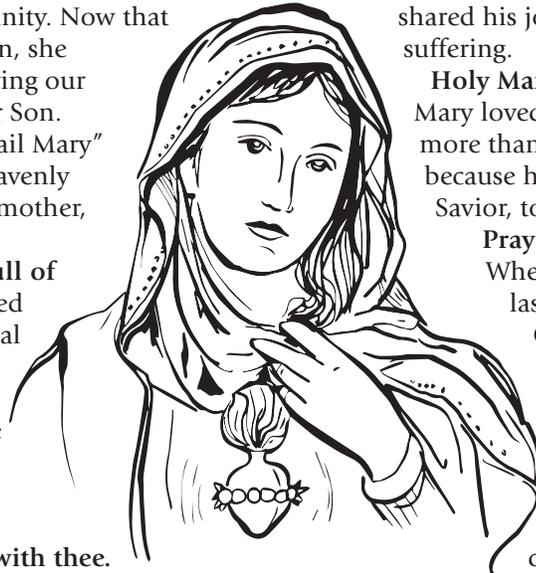
Blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Mary knew that her Son was divine but she also knew what the

prophets wrote about how he would suffer and die. As his mother, she shared his joys and his suffering.

Holy Mary, Mother of God. Mary loved her child even more than the rest of us because he was her Lord and Savior, too.

Pray for us sinners. When Jesus took his last breaths on the Cross, Mary's job of being Mother of the Savior broadened to becoming Mother of the world. Now she cares for us.

Now and at the hour of death. On Earth, Mary brought her Son to us. Now she brings us to the heart of her Son. She prays for us always because that's what a mother does. Amen.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics call Mary "the Mother of the Church"?

Before he died, Jesus gave us his mother to be our mother. Looking down from the cross, Jesus saw Mary and St. John, and said, *"Woman, behold, your son..."* and to John, *"Behold your mother"* (John 19:26-27). Mary's motherhood for us is



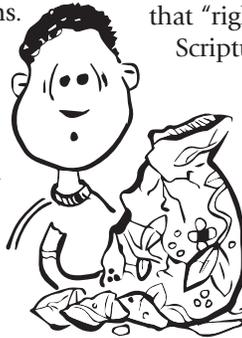
spiritual, yet very real. From the birth of the Church at Pentecost until her Assumption into Heaven, Mary nurtured and accompanied the early Church. She continues to support us today from her place in Heaven by her prayers.

Build up your child's conscience

Temptations come at our children from all directions. A strong conscience is a surefire way to help fight temptation. Here are some suggestions:

Obedience before understanding. Expect youngsters to do what is right at as young an age as possible, instead of waiting until they can understand why. Then good behavior is a habit that will be hard to break.

Right and wrong are not negotiable. Peers can devise clever arguments to justify sinful behavior, but right and wrong are absolutes. As Catholics we know



that "right" is anything God has told us to do, and we have Scripture, the Catechism, and other reliable sources from which to draw. Anything counter to this is wrong.

Repent and repair. If a child does something wrong, he needs to make amends. This means to ask forgiveness of the person hurt, repair the damage, and make things right with God through Confession. When wronged, he must forgive and move on.

Demonstrate love. When youngsters feel loved, they are more receptive to our guidance.

Scripture LESSON

John 14:23-29,
"I will come back to you."

This Gospel reading comes from Jesus' Farewell Speech at the Last Supper.

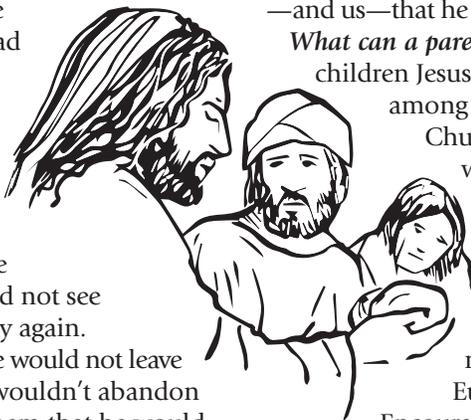
After spending three years together, he had to prepare the close-knit group for his departure. He was going to suffer, die, and rise again. After that night, everything would be different: they would not see him in the same way again.

Yet he promised he would not leave them orphans. He wouldn't abandon them. He assured them that he would remain with them if they loved him and kept his word. Jesus would send the Holy Spirit to guide, comfort,

teach, and remind them of all he had taught them. Lastly, he promised them—and us—that he would return.

What can a parent do? Remind children Jesus is still present among us today in the Church. Tell them that we meet him in prayer, encounter him in the sacraments, hear him in the Scriptures, and receive him in the Eucharist at Mass.

Encourage them to pray to him whenever they want. He loves them always and is never too busy or too far away to help them.



Feasts & Celebrations

May 1 – St. Joseph the Worker (1st century). Entrusted with the care of the Blessed Mother and Jesus, Joseph was a humble carpenter who was dedicated to his family and obedient to God.

May 14 – St. Maria Dominic Mazzarello (1881). Born near Genoa, Italy, she and a friend worked as dressmakers and started a boarding school for girls. Inspired by a vision, she worked with St. John Bosco to found the Salesian Sisters, and became its mother superior. She founded several houses in Italy and France.

May 21 – St. Christopher Magallanes and Companions (1937). Fr. Christopher Magallanes was part of the Catholic Action Movement in Mexico, resisting the anti-Catholic Mexican government. Despite great persecution, he established a seminary at Totatiche. Eventually, he was arrested, tortured, and martyred.

May 30 – Ascension of the Lord (1st century). This solemnity marks the completion of Jesus' mission of salvation and his triumphant entry into Heaven. Note: In many dioceses, observance of Ascension has been moved to the following Sunday.



Parent TALK

May Crowning has always been one of my favorite parish events and I look forward to it every year. Last year, we



were out of town and missed it for the first time in years. To make me feel better, my girls

decided to do our own May Crowning in our backyard.

First, they brought out the largest statue of Mary we have. We placed her in our garden and planted some colorful flowers around her to surround her with color.

After doing some research, they put together a service, complete with programs. We sang some of our favorite Marian hymns, like Ave Maria, and Hail Holy Queen Enthroned Above. After reciting the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we placed a crown of flowers on the statue's head and recited the Rosary.

While it was no substitute for the parish celebration, I loved honoring our Mother in this special way.

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