



## Reflections and Prayers for a Pilgrimage Visit

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church  
La Habra, California



## Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy

December 8, 2015—November 20, 2016

Welcome to Our Lady of Guadalupe for your pilgrimage visit during this Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy!

### Mary, Mother of Mercy

You are invited, in a moment, to visit three large stained-glass windows in the church and two Marian shrines outside the church that offer opportunities for prayer and meditation on the ways in which Mary has been, and continues to be, Our Mother of Mercy, in cooperation with her son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. But first, reflect upon Pope Francis' words about Mary as Our Mother of Mercy:

Mary's gaze! How important this is! How many things can we say with a look! Affection, encouragement, compassion, love, but also disapproval, envy, pride and even hatred. Often a look says more than words; it says what words do not or dare not say. At whom is the Virgin Mary looking? She is looking at each and every one of us. And how does she look at us? She looks at us as a Mother, with tenderness, mercy and love. That was how she gazed at her Son Jesus at all the moments of his life... When we are weary, downcast, beset with cares, let us look to Mary, let us feel her gaze, which speaks to our heart and says: "Courage, my child, I am here to help you!" Our Lady knows us well, she is a Mother, she is familiar with our joys and difficulties, our hopes and disappointments. When we feel the burden of our failings and our sins, let us look to Mary, who speaks to our hearts, saying: "Arise, go to my Son Jesus; in him you will find acceptance, mercy and new strength for the journey."

(Pope Francis, Video Message on the Occasion of the Prayer Vigil at the Shrine of Divine Love, October 12, 2013)



## Mary of the Annunciation and Nativity

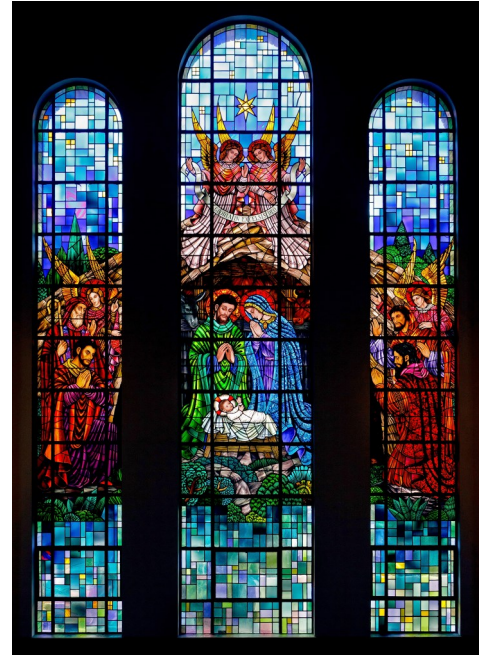
(Looking upon the Nativity window, in the west transept to the right of the sanctuary)

### **Reflection:**

Let us think about who the Virgin Mary was: a Jewish girl who was waiting with all her heart for the redemption of her people. But in the heart of the young daughter of Israel there was a secret that even she herself did not yet know: in God's loving plan she was destined to become the Mother of the Redeemer. At the Annunciation, the Messenger of God calls her "full of grace" and reveals this plan to her. Mary answers "yes" and from that moment Mary's faith receives new light: it is concentrated on Jesus, the Son of God, who from her took flesh and in whom all the promises of salvation history are fulfilled. Mary's faith is the fulfilment of Israel's faith, the whole journey, the whole path of that people awaiting redemption is contained in her, and it is in this sense that she is the model of the Church's faith, which has Christ, the incarnation of God's infinite love, as its centre. How did Mary live this faith? She lived it out in the simplicity of the thousand daily tasks and worries of every mother, such as providing food, clothing, caring for the house.... It was precisely Our Lady's normal life which served as the basis for the unique relationship and profound dialogue which unfolded between her and God, between her and her Son.

(Pope Francis, General Audience, October 23, 2013)

Pray: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be ...



## Mary at the Foot of the Cross

(Looking at the Crucifixion window behind the altar)

### **Reflection:**

After recalling the presence of Mary and the other women at the Lord's cross, St. John relates: "When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, 'Woman, behold, your son!' Then he said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother!'" (Jn 19:26-27). These particularly moving words are a "revelation scene": they reveal the deep sentiments of the dying Christ and contain a great wealth of meaning for Christian faith and spirituality. At the end of his earthly life, as he addressed his Mother and the disciple he loved, the crucified Messiah establishes a new relationship of love between Mary and Christians ...

The reality brought about by Jesus' words, that is, Mary's new motherhood in relation to the disciple, is a further sign of the great love that led Jesus to offer his life for all people. On Calvary this love is shown in the gift of a mother, his mother, who thus becomes our mother too...

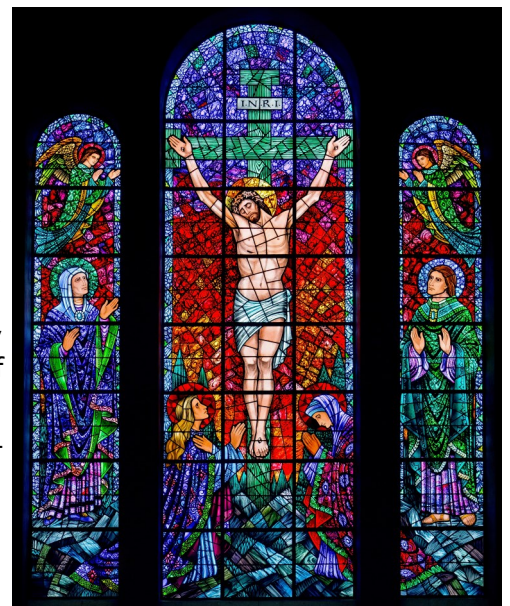
In view of this mission, the Mother is asked to make the acutely painful sacrifice of accepting her only Son's death. Jesus' words: "Woman, behold your son" enable Mary to sense the new maternal relationship which was to extend and broaden the preceding one. Her "yes" to this plan is therefore an assent to Christ's sacrifice, which she generously accepts by complying with the divine will. Even if in God's plan Mary's motherhood was destined from the start to extend to all humanity, only on Calvary, by virtue of Christ's sacrifice, is its universal dimension revealed.

Jesus' words, "Behold, your son," effect what they express, making Mary the mother of John and of all the disciples destined to receive the gift of divine grace ...

May each one of us, precisely through the concrete reality of Mary's universal motherhood, fully acknowledge her as our own Mother, and trustingly commend ourselves to her maternal love.

(Pope St. John Paul II, General Audience, April 23, 1997)

Pray: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be ...



## Mary, Witness to the Resurrection

(Looking at the Resurrection window in the east transept to the left of the sanctuary)

### **Reflection:**

The Gospels mention various appearances of the risen Christ, but not a meeting between Jesus and his Mother. This silence must not lead to the conclusion that after the Resurrection Christ did not appear to Mary; rather it invites us to seek the reasons why the Evangelists made such a choice ...

A fifth-century author, Sedulius, maintains that in the splendour of his risen life Christ first showed himself to his mother. In fact, she, who at the Annunciation was the way he entered the world, was called to spread the marvelous news of the Resurrection in order to become the herald of his glorious coming. Thus bathed in the glory of the Risen One, she anticipates the Church's splendour cf. Sedulius, Paschale carmen, 5, 357-364, CSEL 10, 140f).

It seems reasonable to think that Mary, as the image and model of the Church which waits for the Risen One and meets him in the group of disciples during his Easter appearances, had had a personal contact with her risen Son, so that she too could delight in the fullness of paschal joy.

Present at Calvary on Good Friday (cf. Jn 19:25) and in the Upper Room on Pentecost (cf. Acts 1:14), the Blessed Virgin too was probably a privileged witness of Christ's Resurrection, completing in this way her participation in all the essential moments of the paschal mystery. Welcoming the risen Jesus, Mary is also a sign and an anticipation of humanity, which hopes to achieve its fulfilment through the resurrection of the dead.

In the Easter season, the Christian community addresses the Mother of the Lord and invites her to rejoice: "Regina Caeli, laetare. Alleluia!" "Queen of heaven, rejoice. Alleluia!" Thus it recalls Mary's joy at Jesus' Resurrection, prolonging in time the "rejoice" that the Angel addressed to her at the Annunciation, so that she might become a cause of "great joy" for all people.

(Pope St. John Paul II, General Audience, May 21, 1997)

Pray: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be ...



## Mary, Mother of God

(At the shrine of the Holy Innocents, the Madonna and Child, in Jason's Plaza on the east side of the church)

### **Reflection:**

From earliest times, faith in Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God, has been linked to a particular veneration for his Mother, for the Woman in whose womb he took on our human nature, sharing even in the beating of her heart. Mary is the Woman who accompanied Jesus with sensitivity and deference throughout his life, even to his death on the Cross. At the end, he commended to her maternal love the beloved disciple and, with him, all humanity. In her maternal love, Mary continues to take under her protection people of all languages and cultures, and to lead them together, within a multiform unity, to Christ. In our problems and needs we can turn to Mary. Yet we must also learn from her to accept one another lovingly in the same way that she has accepted all of us: each as an individual, willed as such and loved by God. In God's universal family, in which there is a place for everyone, each person must develop his gifts for the good of all.

(Pope Benedict XVI, greeting at prayer meeting at the "Mariensäule," September 7, 2007)

Pray: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be ...



## Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe

(At the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego, in Jason's Plaza on the east side of the church)

### **Reflection:**

When [Our Lady of Guadalupe] appeared to St. Juan Diego on the Hill of Tepeyac, she presented herself as the “ever perfect Holy Virgin Mary, Mother of the true God” (Nican Mopohua); and so made a new “visitation.” She also hastened attentively to embrace the new American peoples, at their dramatic birth ... So many jumped for joy and hope at her visit and at the gift of her Son, and the perfect disciple of the Lord became the “great missionary who brought the Gospel to our Americas” (cf. Aparecida Document, n. 269). The Son of Mary Most Holy, Immaculate Conception, has thus revealed Himself from the beginning of the history of the new peoples as “the most true God, giver of life”, the Good News of the filial dignity of all the inhabitants of the Americas. Now, no one is only a servant, but we all are children of one and the same Father, brothers among us and servants in the Servant.

The Holy Mother of God visited these peoples and has wished to remain with them. She mysteriously left her sacred image imprinted on the tilma [cloak] of her messenger so we would feel her constant presence, thereby becoming a symbol of Mary's covenant with these peoples, to whom she imparts her soul and tenderness. Through her intercession, the Christian faith began to grow into the most precious treasure of the soul of the American peoples, whose pearl of great value is Jesus Christ: a patrimony that has been passed on and is manifest still today in the baptism of multitudes of people, in the faith, in hope and charity of many, in the preciousness of popular piety and also in the American ethos which is shown in the awareness of human dignity, in the passion for justice, in solidarity with the poorest and the suffering, in the hope, at times, against all hope...



Let us implore the Most Holy Virgin Mary, as Our Lady of Guadalupe — Mother of God, the Queen and My Lady, “my maiden, my little one,” as St. Juan Diego called her, and with all the loving names by which we turn to Her in popular piety — let us pray that she continue to accompany, help and protect our peoples. And may she lead by the hand all the children who go on pilgrimage to those lands to meet her Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord, present in the Church, in his sacramental nature, especially in the Eucharist, present in the treasure of his Word and in his teaching, present in the holy and faithful People of God, present in those who are suffering and in the lowly in heart. And should we be frightened by such a bold plan or should worldly pusillanimity threaten us, may she return to speak to our heart and enable us to hear her voice, that of Mother, of “Good Mother,” of “Great Mother”: Why are you afraid? Am I not here, I, who am your Mother?”

(Pope Francis, Homily, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12, 2014)

Pray: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be ...