



Immaculate Heart of Mother Mary

Immaculate heart of Mother Mary devotion is normally referring to the interior life of Mother Mary, her virtues, joy, sorrow and her love of God and all people in this world. Let us meditate some of her virtues or admirable qualities. The first one is her humility. We can understand it from her reply to the angel Gabriel. **“Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her”** (Luke 1:38). In a world we want everything to happen according our word and our will Mary said let it be with me according to your word. Many times we want to be the servant of God or we want to serve the God but we want everything according to “My” desire not God’s. We want to be the servant of God but we want the highest position, recognition and appreciation, without them we cannot serve the Lord. We don’t have a good heart to say “God if you give them I will take it and if you don’t give still I will continue serving you with whatever way I can”. We give much importance to the position, recognition and appreciation than God. We want to prove we are the greatest and the best and whatever we say it should be considered as the “word of God”, otherwise we cannot sleep properly but let us remember what Jesus said **“So the last will be first, and the first will be last”** (Matthew 20:16) and again He said **“But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first”** (Matthew 19:30). We may get recognitions, appreciations and promotions in our offices if we prove that we are the greatest but if we follow the same attitude inside the church Jesus will say “You will be the last”.

Very often our humility ends only in our words not expressed or shown in our attitudes and actions but Mother Mary lived or practiced her humility in her entire life. In this world wherever we go, we want to be the lead, it may be in our work place, home or any other public places but Mary said “Here am I, servant of the Lord”. We all want to be the masters not servants. Masters have full power over the servants and they just give the orders but the actual work, the hard part is done by the servants. Mary did not ask the angel Gabriel what position I will get in the kingdom as the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Jesus with her sons and

St : Josephs Parish
582 Hopes St Mountain View CA 94041

**Tamil Mass will be celebrated every
second Saturday at 6.45 PM**

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asked **“Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom”** (Matthew 20:21). Mary did not put any condition or expect any benefit in return for doing the work of the God. That is the example of a true servant of God.

We honor Mother Mary with many devotions and festivals but it is sad to say that we don’t live as she lived or as she committed to do the “Will of the Lord”. All we care about what can I do to attract large crowd in the name of celebrations. Many times we retreat our Mother as a Kolar gold mine (only to receive blessings and miracles). The way she lived and the way she did the will of the Lord are not remembered or lost in our grand celebrations.

Again we read from the bible that Mary visited Elizabeth and helped her for three months. It is another example of her humility. We all want others to help us but we don’t want to help others. Otherwise, our prestige and status will be spoiled but Mary visited Elizabeth and helped her on her own. Nobody asked her to go and help and she never expected any favor from Elizabeth. Moreover Mary did not tell anyone about the appearance of angel Gabriel and she is going to be the Mother of Jesus. If we are in this situation we would have advertised about it in the social media and communicating to everyone by sending mass emails and phone calls. She had another good admirable quality of keeping things in her heart. A difficult virtue for many of us to follow.

While we meditate the inner life of Mother Mary let us pray to her not only to receive blessings and miracles but also to live as she had lived, to serve as she had served and to do the will of the Lord as she did without expecting any favor or expecting anything in return. That is the best homage we can pay to our Mother.

- Leenus Rich

UpComing Events

Sep 10th 2nd Saturday Tamil Mass

Time : 6:45 pm
**Location : St. Joseph 's Church
Mountain View , CA 94041.**

St. Clare

St. Clare was born in the city of Assisi in Italy on July 16, 1194. She was the eldest daughter of Favorino Scifi, Count of Sasso-Rosso and Ortolana. Clare was always devoted to prayer as a child. When she turned 12 her parents wanted her to marry a young and wealthy man, but she originally wanted to wait until she was 18. By the time she turned 18, she had heard St. Francis of Assisi preach and wanted to become a follower of him. She wanted to imitate him. She founded the order of nuns known as the "Poor Clares".

Clare wanted to live a poor and humble life dedicated to Jesus. But her parents were against it. She ran away from home and joined St. Francis of Assisi in a little chapel in Bastia outside Assisi. St. Francis cut off her hair, as she was very beautiful. She was given a brown rough habit to wear. Her parents tried their best to bring her back to their palace. It was in vain. Her fifteen-year-old sister Agnes also joined her. They remained with the Benedictine nuns. Due to the pressure of their parents, Clare and Agnes moved to the church of San Damiano that was built by St. Francis. As more and more women joined her, they started a small religious community of women. They were first known as the "Poor Ladies". They wore no shoes and ate no meat. They lived a very simple life. They practiced silence a lot.

For a short period of time Francis himself directed the order. Then in 1216, Clare accepted the role of abbess of San Damiano. Now she had full authority over them. Although pressure was on Clare to follow St. Benedict's rule, she wanted to follow St. Francis who was her spiritual father. She even took care of St. Francis during his illness until his death in 1226. After Francis's death, Clare continued to promote the growth of her order, writing letters to abbesses in other parts of Europe and thwarting every attempt by each successive pope to impose a rule on her order. She did this despite the fact that she endured a long period of poor health until her death. Clare's Franciscan theology of joyous poverty in imitation of Christ is evident in the rule she wrote for her community and in her four letters to Agnes of Prague. On September 17, 1228, the pope sent her letters because she had filled him with admiration. The letters he sent her were for ways to view her grant.

Once the army of King Fredrick II tried to attack the convent. Clare took the Monstrance to the entrance and knelt down in front of it. She prayed to Jesus to save the nuns as she was old and could not protect them. And a voice within her seemed to say: "I will keep them always in my care." At the same time, a sudden fright struck the attackers. They fled as fast as they could.

St. Clare was sick most of her life. She was abbess for 40 years but for 29 of those years she was very sick. But she said that she was joyful anyway because she was serving the Lord. Some people worried that the nuns were suffering because they were so poor. "They say that we are too poor, but can a heart which possesses the infinite God be truly poor?" St. Clare died on August 11, 1253. Just two years later Pope Alexander IV proclaimed her a saint.

Construction of the Basilica of Saint Clare was completed in 1260, and on October 3 of that year Clare's remains were transferred to the newly completed basilica where they were buried beneath the high altar. In further recognition of St. Clare, Pope Urban IV officially changed the name of the Order of Poor Ladies to the Order of Saint Clare in 1263. Some 600 years later in 1872, Saint Clare's remains were transferred to a newly constructed shrine in the crypt of the Basilica of Saint Clare where they can still be seen today. Although her body is no longer claimed to be incorrupt, her skeleton is displayed even now.

Her feast was celebrated on 12th of August as August 11th was assigned to Saints Tiburtius and Susanna. The 1969 calendar reform removed the feast of Saints Tiburtius and Susanna from the calendar, allowing St. Clare's feast to be celebrated on August 11, as a Memorial.

- Joe Natar



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