



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! Mid-August always elicits a changing of gears. It's at this time that colleges begin to open and one can even begin to notice the earlier sunsets or school buses. Of course, with all the changes that we have experienced this year, the "Back to School" change may not be as dramatic. Nevertheless, it still offers an opportunity to begin again and that is always a hope-filled occasion.

It's fitting that at this time of year, we celebrate some Marian Feast Days. Fitting because the Blessed Mother was always there at the changing moments of salvation history. She was there, of course, at Christmas when Jesus was born; there at Cana where his public ministry began; there at Calvary; there in the Upper Room. And she is still there, that is here with each one of us. She is an expert in changing times.

Yesterday, we celebrated her Assumption into Heaven. This week, we recall her Crowning as Queen of Heaven and Earth. In between both of these feasts, we celebrate St. Bernard, a Saint with a great devotion to the Blessed Mother. I share with you one of Bernard's quotes about Our Lady. It's fitting for our troubled and changing times. I invite you to cut it out and hold onto it for your own personal prayer and meditation:

WORDS OF SAINT BERNARD

If squalls of temptations arise, or thou fall upon the rocks of tribulation, look to the star, call upon Mary.

If thou art tossed by the waves of pride or ambition, detraction or envy, look to the star, call upon Mary.

If anger or avarice or the desires of the flesh dash against the ship of thy soul, turn thine eyes towards Mary.

If, trouble by the enormity of thy crimes, ashamed of thy guilty conscience, terrified by dread of the judgment, thou beginnest to sink into the gulf of sadness or the abyss of despair, think of Mary.

In dangers, in anguish, in doubt, think of Mary, call upon Mary.

Let her be ever on thy lips, ever in thy heart; and the better to obtain the help of her prayers, imitate the example of her life.

Following her, thou strayest not;
invoking her, thou despairest not;
thinking of her, thou wanderest not;
upheld by her, thou fallest not;
shielded by her, thou fearest not;
guided by her, thou growest not weary;
favored by her, thou reachest the goal.

And thus dost thou experience in thyself how good is that saying:

'And the Virgin's name was Mary'

When we pray this prayer, (with great faith), we gain the confidence we need in the power of Mary's intercession for us.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

236