

## Saturday's Thought for the Day

Today the Church commemorates Our Lady, Queen and Mother, a week after The Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary.

We begin at the foot of the cross where Mary and St John stood. St John in his Gospel , chapter 19 vs26 “When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved, standing near, he said to his mother, ‘Woman, behold your son!’ vs 27, “Then he said to the disciple, ‘ Behold, your mother!’ As well as Mary becoming John’s mother, the Church has seen in those words of Jesus, John as the Church Mary as the mother of the Church.

Mary’s motherhood is seen first in her Immaculate Conception when God preserved her from original sin and actual sin. Then Mary’s motherhood is seen in the Annunciation when she receives from the angel her vocation to be the Mother of the Lord. She carries physically in her the Son of God. Then later she cares for her son in bringing him up at the home in Nazareth and teaching him the Jewish faith.

But Mary’s vocation as mother was not going to be an easy one: later the prophet Simeon said that a sword would pass through her own soul also when Jesus was circumcised. Even from that early time Mary was going to share spiritually in Jesus’ vocation as the Son of God. Mary is the Mother of God. At the foot of the cross the sword passes through her soul as she watches Jesus die on the cross.

Mary, then as mother of the Church, is our mother spiritually. Mary was the only human being that God’s salvation through Jesus was perfectly fulfilled. It means what God did through Mary he will fulfill in us. That is why we can ask Mary in our prayers to help us in our daily living of the gospel. She is our mother and we carry in us from our baptism the ways of Jesus. We become more Christ-like every day.

Last Sunday we rejoiced in the Assumption of Mary. As the sinless one she was received into heaven body and soul. The resurrection of her Son is fulfilled in her. One day we shall be received into heaven and where Mary is we shall be too. How glorious the Assumption of Mary must have been.

Today we contemplate Mary’s Coronation as God receives her and places her at his right hand. We are reminded of part of Ps 45 in which the psalmist says “ At your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.” We see in this verse a reference to Mary as Queen being received in splendour. What a spectacle that must have been in heaven. I remember as 12 year old seeing the Queen’s Coronation on a 9” black and white TV and thinking what a splendid occasion it was. Mary’s Coronation surpasses all the superlatives with which we can describe it. No wonder it is one of the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary.

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