

Hail Mary

Considerations

By

St. Vincent Pallotti

Contents

Introduction

2

Prologue

Hail Mary

Full of Grace

The Lord Is with You

Blessed Are You Among Women

Blessed Is the Fruit of Your Womb

Jesus

Holy Mary, Mother of God

Pray for Us Sinners Now

And at the Hour of Our Death

Epilogue: Guard Your Heart and Give It to Me

Introduction

St. Vincent Pallotti, Apostle of Mary

Vincent Pallotti (1795-1850), a Roman priest whom Pope John XXIII declared a Saint of God on January 20, 1963, had a great devotion to Mary. He venerated Mary as the Mother of God and the Mother of all. He called her “My Immaculate Mother” even before the dogma of the Immaculate Conception had been proclaimed.

The devotion began at the feet of his earthly mother, Maria Maddalena De Rossi-Pallotti. She had taught her young son to recite daily the prayer, “Mary, make me a good boy.” Throughout his life he continued to honor Mary. As a priest he wrote three booklets of devotion and reflections on Mary. They were entitled “The Month of May.” One was for priests, one for religious and the third for the laity. In these booklets he not only invited everyone to honor Mary, but more importantly, he invited them to imitate the virtues of her Son, Jesus Christ. For Pallotti, devotion to Mary consisted primarily in imitating her son, Jesus.

Personally, Pallotti was such a devoted son of Mary that he became her herald. In all of his sermons, Pallotti stressed the powerful intercession of Mary. During the missions that he preached in Rome and the surrounding towns, he always arranged for an image of Mary to be solemnly decorated and erected in a prominent place because, as he tells us, “Mary is the spiritual mother of us all.” This image of Mary was so important to Vincent that he used to give a small

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image or painting of her to all the newly ordained missionaries whom he had come to know in his role of spiritual director at the Propagation of Faith Seminary in Rome. He would tell them, “Remember, Mary is the great missionary; so stay close to her.”

It was the custom in his day for the faithful to kiss the hand of a priest as a way of greeting him. But Vincent preferred the honor of the gesture be bestowed on Mary and so he carried a small painting of her in his sleeve. Whenever someone approached and sought to kiss his hand, he gracefully slipped the picture, an image of Mary, Mother of Divine Love, into place for it to be kissed instead.

The image of Mary as Mother of Divine Love was his favorite image of her. When he ordered a painting done of her, he had the artist add a heart pierced by a sword and surrounded by roses. The other favorite image was Mary as Queen of the Apostles. He adopted her under this title as the patroness of his society of the Catholic Apostolate, an organization through which he proclaimed the universal apostolate of all persons, including the laity. The rendering of her as Queen of Apostles which he used shows two women in addition of the apostles. They represent the laity.

Vincent Pallotti became a great saint of the Church not only because of the grace of God at work in him, but also through the intercession of Mary. For, as he wrote, “a devoted son or daughter of Mary will not only be saved, but through Mary’s intercession, will become a great saint.”

In the following pages, we shall present meditations from Pallotti’s writings on the “Hail

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Mary.” They are translations from the original Italian text of the “Month of May” for the faithful. The style is distinctive. Pallotti lets Mary speak to the heart of her children. Hoping that this work, long overdue, may become another avenue for spreading devotion to Mary, the editors humbly dedicate this book to their beloved Mother and Queen, Mary Mother of Divine Love.

Rev. Flavian J. Bonifazi, SAC

Sr. Grace Gabrielle O’Brien, CSAC

Prologue

Listen

Behold the Most Holy Immaculate Mary,
Queen of Heaven,
Mother of Mercy,
Refuge of Sinners,
Mother of Divine Love

She comes to you as a heavenly Teacher,
And with motherly affection
She speaks to your heart.

Listen to her with trust

Hail Mary...

My child, this was the greeting of the Archangel Gabriel to me. With these words he announced my sublime dignity as Mother of God and the august mystery of the Incarnation of God's Word.

Try to understand, my child, that when poor sinners greet me with these words, my motherly heart is filled with tender compassion towards them.

The reason for this is, first of all, that these poor sinners are slaves of the devil, their enemy, my enemy, and – most of all – the enemy of my Son. The second reason is that they have ignored their dignity as sons of God. And the last, they have not profited from the mystery of the Incarnation.

If it were possible that I could be pierced again in heaven with the painful sword foretold by Simeon, I would allow that suffering to be renewed because I still see sinners who refuse to be converted, who ignore the mystery of the Incarnation, and who turn against the work of Redemption.

My child if you wish, therefore to console my heart, always strive to be numbered among the children of God and not the multitude of sinners.

Full of Grace...

The evil of sin is infinite because the being of God, who is offended by it, is infinite.

The souls of the poor sinners who have lost sanctifying grace, that is, have lost the friendship of God, is an object of infinite rejection by God.

My Child, you can be assured that when such poor sinners say to me those words of the Archangel, “full of grace,” I ardently desire to see in all of them an abundance of grace. Seeing the souls of poor sinners in such a miserable condition, my heart, if such were possible, actually desires to undergo the most unbearable martyrdom.

Therefore, my child, take care to avoid sin. I want to see you without sin always. I desire, and I say this without any envy, to see you full of grace, more full than I.

The Lord Is With You...

These words recall the fact that the most Blessed Trinity possessed me from all eternity. The trinity is my sovereign master. The Father possessed me as His daughter; the Son possessed me as His mother and the Holy Spirit possessed me as His bride.

When sinners repeat the words, “The Lord is with you,” my heart fills with compassion towards them. This is because, by deforming the image of God in themselves through sin, they have rejected the dominion of God in their lives. Furthermore, they have preferred to serve a tyrant master, the devil, rather than serve God.

My child, great is my desire that God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be the master of all men and women. And this desire is not only that all be in the state of grace, but that all be dedicated to the service of God.

It shall please me greatly if you shall be vigilant and never become the friend of the devil, you are no longer in God’s friendship. God will not dwell in a heart where the devil lodges.

Blessed Are You Among Women...

These words were said to my be Elizabeth, the mother of John, the precursor of my Son, Jesus.

My child, you must remember that poor sinners were “cursed” by David because they had ignored the divine law. My heart, in looking at them, cannot bear to see them cry under the terrible scorn of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In order to help them, I offer my prayers to the throne of the Blessed Trinity. I pray that the Father with His power, the Son with His wisdom, and the Holy Spirit with His grace may dispose all poor sinners to conversion that they might be blessed again.

My maternal heart suffers violently when it sees the great number of sinners indisposed to the sweet influence of grace through their own fault. This grace, which the Most High wants to shower upon them is the result of My prayers.

Therefore, my child, humble yourself because God resists the proud and gives His grace to the humble.

Blessed Is The Fruit Of Your Womb...

Truly my heart rejoices in God when you bless the fruit of my womb which was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Unfortunately, so many creatures refuse to accept my Son, the fruit of my womb, from me. Oh, there are quite a few!

I want to secure for all the children of Adam all the graces of my Son's Redemption. But all do not care. There are those who rather seek the false goods of the earth. That is the reason that I am so deeply a sorrowful mother.

My child, you will console me. Behold the fruit of my womb; take Him I want you to keep Him and make Him yours completely. Never abandon Him.

Remember that any time you seriously offend Him you refuse my gift to you.

Jesus...

My child, no one, and you can be certain of this, no one is capable of comprehending the joy of my heart when I hear people praising the name of Jesus who is Life Everlasting. This is because it is a matter of faith that “he who praises His name with humility and love will be saved.”

Unfortunately, many do not praise Him. These poor souls who do not praise Jesus wound my maternal heart bitterly. In fact, when I consider the incomprehensible treasures of God’s infinite love, I realize that these poor sinners are losing them.

My divine Son sought these sinners with infinite love. He offered them these treasures. He shed His most precious Blood for them through His death. Think of that: His death on the cross. For them, He brought to fulfillment the work of Redemption.

Oh, love of my eternal Son.

Oh, love unappreciated.

Oh, love forgotten.

Oh, love unrequited.

Oh, poor souls who may lose themselves for not praising with faith, humility and love the most adorable and sweet name of my Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother Of God...

My child, consider that the most High has showered on me all His treasures. He has ordained that all the faithful who invoke me in order to praise God for giving me His graces may be gifted with God's favors.

Therefore, my child, with motherly love I assure you that when you say, "Holy Mary," I desire ardently to see all the faithful enriched with divine graces.

Furthermore, my child, consider that the hand of the Omnipotent God raised me to the inconceivable dignity of "Mother of God." As such, I became the Daughter of the Eternal Father and Bride of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, when you invoke me as "Mother of God," I will pray affectionately that you are fortified with the power of the Father, enlightened with the wisdom of the Son, and sanctified with the love of the Holy Spirit.

And as long as you believe in my Divine Maternity, you shall be filled with all the graces and blessings which most Holy Trinity has promised.

Pray For Us Sinners Now...

My child, consider that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit have constituted me Advocate and Refuge of poor sinners.

Reflect that as a daughter, I must obey my Father. As a Mother, I must please my Son and as a Bride, I must be faithful to the Holy Spirit.

Out of their Infinite Love, the three Divine Persons made me Refuge of Sinners so that I must bestow also on them the ineffable treasures of the Divinity.

Besides this, the infinite love and mercy of God has granted me a heart filled with love and mercy. And if you cannot understand all this, try to be convinced that my heart is filled with affection for all the poor children of Adam, especially when they beg, “Pray for us sinner.”

And At The Hour Of Death...

Listen to me, my child, and tell me what you think of me. Do you believe that when my children, redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb, say “Pray for us sinners especially at the hour of our death,” I shall disappoint them?

Before you make any judgment, I remind you, my child, that I am your Mother, your Advocate, and the Refuge of all sinners.

You must reflect that because of His goodness, God has given me, above all other creatures, the understanding of the treasures of Redemption and of the Divinity. More than any other creature, angelic or human, I know the great loss that they could undergo when they lose God for all eternity.

Besides, you must remember that I am a mother. I was constituted such by my Son during His painful agony. Therefore, I have the heart of a mother.

Tell me, therefore, knowing the moment of death on which depends a whole eternity for my children, can I remain indifferent to them? Can you believe that I will not be interested in helping all those who invoke me?

As an affectionate mother, I will help all – even those who do not invoke me.

Epilogue

Guard Your Heart And Give It To Me

My child, this is the last time I shall speak to you with motherly affection. The words which I tell you come from my Bridegroom, the Holy Spirit. Listen to Him. He tells you, “With closest custody, guard your heart.” (Prov. 4:23) Yes, this is the will of the Most High. This is the will of the Father who created you, of the Son who redeemed you, and of the Holy Spirit who sanctified you.

Yes, I declare that you are to guard your heart in every way possible. I want you to resolve generously to guard your heart always by perfectly observing the teachings of my Son.

In order that you may keep this resolution, I wish that you give your heart to me and I shall give it to my Son, Jesus, and consecrate it to Him. In Jesus, you shall find all the graces necessary to guard it.

But in order that you may receive His gifts, you must empty your heart of all earthly affections. Only in this way shall you share in all His spiritual and heavenly love.

Give me, therefore, your heart, so that I may consecrate it to my Son.