THE MONTH OF MAY WITH MARY

On May 8th we will celebrate the feast of "**Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament".** This title was not attributed to Mary by Blessed Peter Vigne. In his meditation on the Angelus and on Mary's visitation to her cousin Elizabeth he calls her a "Beautiful Tabernacle of God among men". She became a living "tabernacle" as she carried her Son Jesus within her. Mary and the Eucharist are profoundly united. The month of May this year calls to mind the **centenary of the apparitions at Fatima** where Pope Francis is expected for the celebrations. To help you engage more fully in this Marian journey we are including short extracts from St. John Paul 11's Apostolic Letter on the Rosary.

"**While praying the Rosary, two things happen: one sits at the "school of Mary"** to be guided by her to contemplate the beauty in the face of Christ, while experiencing at the same time the depths of his love. Mary lived with her eyes fixed on Christ, treasuring his every word: *"She kept all these things, pondering them in her heart"* (*Lk* 2:19). The memories of Jesus, impressed upon her heart, were always with her, leading her to reflect on the various moments of her life at her Son's side. In a way those memories were to be the "rosary" which she recited uninterruptedly throughout her earthly life.

..It is not just a question of learning what he taught but of "*learning him*". In this regard could we have any better teacher than Mary?

Contemplating the scenes of the Rosary in union with Mary is a means of learning from her to **"read" Christ**, to discover his secrets and to understand his message.

The Rosary is by its nature a prayer for peace, since it consists in the contemplation of Christ, the Prince of Peace, the one who is "our peace" (*Eph* 2:14)...the Rosary also makes us peacemakers in the world.

"Oh, what a beautiful example you give us, Lord,
in the person of your Blessed Mother...
Grant that she may be our most gracious advocate in your presence
and that we may imitate and follow her...." Bl. Peter Vigne

POPE FRANCIS' LETTER TO YOUNG PEOPLE: "As you follow this path, I encourage you to cultivate a relationship of familiarity and friendship with Our Lady. She is our Mother. Speak to her as you would to a Mother. Together with her, give thanks for the precious gift of faith that you have received from your elders, and entrust your whole life to her. She is a good Mother who listens to you and embraces you, who loves you and walks together with you. I assure you that if you do that, you will not regret it".

>>During the month of May and especially on the 8th, join with our sisters praying through Mary to the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest.... and for sacramentine vocations in our mission countries: **France, Italy, England, Brazil , Ireland, Spain, Tanzania**

RELIGIEUSES DU SAINT SACREMENT
MAISON MÈRE : 113, AVENUE VICTOR HUGO 26000 VALENCE - FRANCE

N° 4—5. 2017

REFLECTIONS Blessed PETER VIGNE today

The ***month of April*** *this year is a "****Holy" month****: with Palm Sunday we enter into Holy Week....accompanying Christ on his journey to the Cross and the Resurrection.*

With Mary, in the month of May*, we welcome the Good News of the apparitions of the Risen Christ.*

The Calvary journey which Blessed Peter Vigne established in Boucieu le Roi invites us to follow the painful path of the suffering Jesus during thirty Stations: the Way of the Cross. Perhaps not so familiar are the ***seven Resurrection Stations: the Way of Light and Joy****! The meditation passage for these two months is taken from the third Resurrection Station. Peter Vigne quotes extensively from the Gospel before offering us his reflection on the emotional experiences of the three Marys.*



An Easter journey with the three Marys

When the Sabbath day had passed, Saint Mark tells us, ***Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James*** *and* ***Mary Salome*** *bought spices so that they might go and anoint the body of Jesus. Very early in the morning, on the first day after the Sabbath, (Sunday) they came to the tomb just after sunrise. As they were on their way, they were saying to one another: "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?"*

Suddenly there was a violent earthquake, Saint Matthew said (28,2) and the Angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled away the stone from the entrance of the tomb and sat on it. His face was like lightning and his clothing was white as snow. This greatly frightened them. But the Angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, you are looking for ***Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. He is not here....*** *Here is the place where they laid him.*

He is risen.."

A Meditation by Peter Vigne

Not only did the three Marys rise early in the morning to go to the tomb of Jesus but they also made the decision to anoint his Sacred Body. We could imitate them perfectly well if we made an effort every morning to offer ourselves to God:

A Morning Offering, by Peter Vigne:

My God I offer you all my thoughts, words and actions.
And with the help of your grace,
I promise not to do, or say, or desire anything
that is not for your glory;
and to seek only your holy will
in everything I do throughout this day.

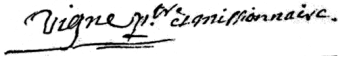
The three Marys were deeply distressed as they faced the serious problem of not being able to complete their great act of care and devotion. ***Their fear was that they would not have enough strength to lift the stone*** *from the entrance to the tomb where the body of Jesus was laid. The severe earthquake only added to their terror and confusion.*

We have there an image of what happens to those who wish to serve God and live a virtuous life. ***We imagine*** *unexpected obstacles and challenges that appear insurmountable.* ***We fear*** *great temptations.* ***We assume*** *that we have not enough strength to do penance and to overcome the contempt and ridicule of those opposed to devotional practices. Lastly, we assume that there is no other help for us, beyond the familiar and ordinary.*



This ***is a great mistake*** *and one that is harmful to many Christians. Does it not seem to imply that the all-powerful God, who governs the Heavens and the Earth, and holds back the chained power of the Underworld, will not have the divine power to support us if we are totally dedicated to his love…..? He who sustains the whole Universe will uphold us too in our trials and difficulties.*
God will never forsake *his true servants. If we truly implore his help; if we lean totally on Him and not ourselves by* ***putting our absolute trust in Him;*** *then without a doubt, all fears will be appeased, and stones rolled away.*

PBL.Vol 2. 389-391



Alleluia! Peter Vigne proposes an extended Way of the Cross to accompany Christ in his Passion and Crucifixion. The meditation also invites us to journey with the three Marys…the women who accompanied him to Calvary**. WHO ARE THEY?** Mary Magdalene, who was a great sinner and on coming to Jesus was forgiven. Mary, the wife of Cleopas, one of the disciples of Emmaus and the mother of the Apostle, James the minor. Mary Salome, the mother of the Apostles James and John and the wife of Zebedee, a fisherman. They were a group of **women-disciples** who were followers of Jesus, *"they followed and served him when he was in Galilee"* the evangelist Mark tells us. They followed and served him all the way to the Cross and the tomb.

"***We could imitate them perfectly well***…" In keeping with the Gospel, Peter Vigne shows us generous and determined women. All the Apostles, except for John, abandoned Jesus and fled. The women remained faithful, received the words of Jesus on the Cross, and in agony they watched the blood streaming from his side pierced by a sword. They were the witnesses to the words of the Centurion:
"Truly this man was the Son of God!"

Prevented from anointing the body of Jesus because of the Sabbath, they went early the next morning to serve him once again. On this occasion however, doubts, fears and apprehension assailed them. When they saw the enormous stone that closed the entrance to the tomb "***they were afraid they would not have enough strength to lift it!"*** Does this sound familiar to you? In the face of many of life's challenges, our initial reaction is often *"the assumption that there is no other help for us, beyond the familiar and ordinary", Peter Vigne tells us.*

"***God will never forsake*** *us…….if we lean totally on Him and* ***put our absolute trust in Him"*** And so the stones and pebbles that litter our daily path; our lack of hope, the dense fog that settles on us from time to time, can be overcome by the Light of Easter. *"Do not be afraid, you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. He is not here…. Here is the place where they laid him.*
HE IS RISEN.."

"Go and tell his disciples…." The message of the Resurrection is a message of joyful Hope and Peace, entrusted to us who are an **"Easter People" and Alleluia is our song!**

Mary, Virgin and Mother….
help us to say our own "yes" to
the urgent call,
as pressing as ever,
to proclaim the Good News of Jesus.
….Obtain for us now
a new ardour born of the resurrection,
that we may bring to all the Gospel of life
which triumphs over death.
Give us a holy courage
to seek new paths,
that the gift of unfading beauty
may reach every man and woman.
..Mother of the living Gospel,
wellspring of happiness
for God's little ones,
pray for us. Amen. Alleluia!
FRANCIS Evangelii Gaudium