

# COR AD COR

## Opus Mariæ Mediatrix

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Dear Friend of Our Lady,

We find ourselves once again in the month of May, the month of Mary. We should make a point of increasing our devotion to Our Blessed Mother during the month consecrated for years now to her. Our celebration for the month began, ever so appropriately, with High Mass on May 1st, in honor of her holy spouse, St. Joseph. For us April ends and the month of May begins with our annual solemn novena in honor of Our Lady, Mediatrix of Grace, which feast falls on May 8th (*Missale Romanum* 1962). Those who use previous editions of the *Missale Romanum* will note that the feast was appointed to be observed on May 31st each year. However, in what seems to be a judicious change, the feast was transferred to May 8, given that May 31st in the traditional missal has always been celebrated as the obligatory Feast of the Queenship of Mary. In another judicious change, the rubrics of the 1962 *Missale Romanum* give permission for any of the Masses designated in the appendix of the Missal as "for some places" may be celebrated as votive Masses of the 4th Class universally. Thus any priest may celebrate the Mass in honor of Our Lady, Mediatrix of Grace on May 8th, as there is no obligatory feast and also on any other 4th Class day of the year.



Each and everyone of our benefactors and friends was remembered in a special way in our daily novena prayers from April 29th to May 7th and also of course on the Mass of the feastday itself, May 8th.

As has been the case for a number of years now, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations and Mothers' Day occur on the same date, this year the 14th of May. It is indeed a happy coincidence, given the role of mothers in nurturing vocations to the Sacred Priesthood and Consecrated Life. Evocative of this role is the ceremony of the traditional rite of ordination in which, the linen bindings, placed around the new priest's hands, were later given by him to his mother. The tradition in many countries was that the mother would be buried with these sacred bindings, symbolizing the deep relation that exists between mother and priest-son.

Let us not forget then, to raise up prayers and entreaties to the Divine Majesty for an increase of vocations throughout the world.

The month of May will be significantly enriched this year, when our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, travels to the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal on May 12th to preside over the ceremony for the beatification of the Venerable Servants of God, Francisco and Jacinta Marto on May 13th.

A group of Opus Mariæ devotees, under the direction of Mrs. Regina Fox, will be traveling to the shrine for this august occasion. Would that I could go, but my schedule will not allow it. Let us not forget another great Marian event this year---the collegial consecration by Pope John Paul II and all the bishops of the world, to the Immaculate

the Bishops' Jubilee, October 8, 2000. Let us pray that this act of consecration of the Church and the World will be rich in blessings.

By the way, those who would like to intensify their devotion might like to acquire a copy of *The Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary* "in Latin and English" which is available from Neri Publications --- See the order form elsewhere in this issue.

Holy Week at Our Lady's Chapel this year, saw significant advances, particularly in the area of sacred music, from the setting of the *Hosanna Filio David* by Tomas Luis Victoria which accompanied the entrance of the sacred ministers for the blessing of palms on First Passion Sunday to the beautiful settings of the *Kyrie* (Viadana), the *Gloria* (Haydn), the offertory motet, *Laudate Dominum* (Vivaldi), to a setting of the *Sanctus* and *Benedictus* (Victoria), at the Midnight Mass of Easter following the Vigil. (For your information, our music programme here at OMM received a positive review in the month of December in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*).

As always, you are remembered in my monthly First Saturday Mass for our benefactors and friends and in our daily prayers for the same.

In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,