

self. So one understands how the Church also, in the Spirit that animates her and unites her to Christ her Spouse, is gifted with intimate fruitfulness, thanks to which she continuously generates children of God in baptism and makes them grow to the fullness of Christ (see Galatians 4:19; Ephesians 4:13).

5. It is these children who constitute that “assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven,” destined to inhabit “Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem” (see Hebrews 12:21-23). Not for nothing are the last words of the Apocalypse those of an intense invocation addressed to Christ: “The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come!’” (Apocalypse 22:17), “Come, Lord Jesus” (ibid., v. 20). This is the final goal of the Church, which advances with confidence in its historical pilgrimage, even if often feeling near her, according to the image of the same biblical book, the hostile and furious presence of another feminine figure, “Babylon,” the “great Prostitute” (see Apocalypse 17:1.5), which incarnates the “bestiality” of hatred, death and interior sterility.

Looking at her goal, the Church cultivates “the hope of the eternal Kingdom, that is brought about by participation in the life of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit, given to the Apostles as the Counselor, is the guardian and animator of this hope in the heart of the Church” (*Dominum et Vivificantem*, No. 66). Let us pray, now, that God will grant his Church to always be the custodian of hope in history, luminous like the Woman of the Apocalypse “clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars” (Apocalypse 12:1).

[Translation by ZENIT]

H i c e t N u n c

Opus Mariæ Mediatrix supporter Grace T. Reinhardt has taken the initiative to start an apostolate of prayer for grandchildren: no dues, no meetings, just prayer. Here is her letter & the prayer she recommends.

For the past couple of years I have thought about starting a Grandmother’s Club. No meeting - no dues - just a joining in spirit and in prayers to the Infant Jesus and His beloved Mother for our grandchildren. Our children’s minds are being corrupted by television, movies, Internet, and books. Unless there is a strong, religious family life they are in great jeopardy of losing their souls. Even with a strong religious life it is hard for them because of peer pressure and worldliness.

My idea is to set aside a time each day (3:00 P.M.), the hour of Our Lord’s death, to place ourselves in the presence of God and pray for guidance for our grandchildren and protection from all evil. If we remember to say the prayer at 3:00 P.M. then all grandmothers would be praying together for our grandchildren. You may use any prayers you wish, but I am enclosing the prayer I will be using. Some of you are in the habit of saying the Divine Mercy Prayers at 3:00 P.M. each day. It would be easy to add this extra prayer. Think of the spiritual good we would be obtaining for our grandchildren! I’d like to ask Our Lord to give them the graces to help them know the vocation he has chosen for them and also the graces to follow that vocation.

I Hope you will join in this Grandmother’s Club, and I encourage you to invite other grandmothers to take a few minutes each day and join us in prayer.

Yours in Christ, Grace T. Reinhardt

Grandmother’s Prayer

Infant Jesus and Mary our Queen and Mother, we come before you to place our grandchildren in your protective arms. Shield them from the evil spirits and the worldliness that is all about them. O Jesus, cover them with your precious blood. We plead with you to grant them the graces to know their vocation you have chosen for them and the graces for them to follow it. Send their guardian angels to protect them always. St. Anne, Grandmother of the Infant Jesus, watch over our grandchildren. We thank you. Amen.