

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We have entered into the beautiful month of May. This is a month dedicated to our mother Mary. Traditionally, we crown her statues in this month (as we will do after the 10:30AM Mass this weekend) to honor her and to honor Jesus. We do not do it because she needs this honor – no, God has honored her and raised her above all other saints and even above the Angels! We honor her because **we need** to honor her.

Some are afraid that if we honor Mary too much we will dishonor Jesus. This is not true. While there are *wrong ways* of honoring her (for instance: cults that make her a goddess, equal or greater than God; or portrayals of her which disdain and neglect her humility and obedience in order to make her some sort of rebel), we CANNOT honor her *too much*. No matter how much *we* honor her, it will only be a shadow of the true honor God has given her in Heaven. Even on Earth, Jesus – an obedient Son of the Commandments – would have obeyed the Fourth Commandment to “Honor your father and your mother.” By honoring Mary, we *imitate* Jesus – we strive to do what He did in this life and what He continues to do in Heaven.

So why do we crown her? We do this because we recognize that God crowned her Queen of Heaven and Earth, Queen of the Angels and Saints. By her Immaculate Conception and by her complete “yes” at the Annunciation, she has given herself over so completely to God to be the true and obedient Daughter of the Father, the true, loving and devoted Mother of the Son, and the true and faithful Spouse of the Holy Spirit. Her “yes,” her humility and obedience, has allowed God to raise her above all other creatures.

But wait, there’s more! We crown her as a sign and reminder that she is not only Queen of the Universe, but that WE CHOOSE HER TO BE QUEEN OF OUR HEARTS! She is not some distant figure, lording it over the universe; she is *Mother*, and her queenship is that of *love*. As St. Maximilian says, she is “our little, little mother.” She is intimate with us, caring for the details of our lives, and those who consecrate themselves to her, recognize that everything that does not come from our own will – even if it comes from the evil will of another – comes to us *through her hands*. This means that she is always taking care of us, no matter what the circumstances, no matter what happens to us! We crown her because we love her, because we give ourselves to her so that she can give us to Jesus, because she loves us.

In this month of May, I encourage you to find a way to honor Mary in your lives and in your homes. Maybe you can get flowers and place them before an image of her in your home. Maybe you can join us in honoring her in the Crowning of Mary after the 10:30AM Mass this weekend. Maybe you can join us in remembering her Apparitions at Fatima through our Praise and Worship Adoration and candlelight procession next Saturday, May 13. Maybe you can make a commitment to pray a daily Rosary (as so often she has said this is the *secret to peace*), either on your own or with your family.

As we honor Mary, we honor Jesus. We imitate Him in choosing to give Mary honor. In this great month of May, this month of Mary, may we grow in deeper love of our Mother, so that she can draw us into the love of Jesus!