

FROM THE PASTOR

My dear brothers and sisters,

May is one of the months dedicated to our Lady, and this weekend, after the 10:30am Mass, we have the Crowning of Mary. Sometimes I get asked why we do this? Does she need it? Shouldn't we honor God first and above all? To answer simply: no, Mary doesn't need it, and yes, we are supposed to honor God first and above everything and everyone. Let's look at this a bit more, though.

While Mary doesn't need our praise or honor (after all, she's not waiting up in Heaven, looking down on us pouting when people don't honor her), *we need* to honor Mary, and in honoring her, we are doing what God Himself does. Jesus, when He lived on earth, was a good Jew. He followed the law, and one of the Commandments of God is to honor (give glory to) your father and mother. Jesus throughout His life on earth would have honored His mother, Mary. By honoring Mary, we imitate Jesus. It is also a way of honoring almighty God, for we are saying to God that we see the wonderful gift He has given to us in Mary, and we thank Him for that gift. By honoring Mary, we are obedient to the Scriptures ("All generations will call me blessed" Luke 1:48). And the truth is that no matter how much we honor Mary, we will never outdo God in the honor He already gives to Mary. Our honor of Mary takes nothing away from our worship of God, but only magnifies it!

We honor Mary because *we need* to honor her. Why is that? By turning our gaze to our Mother (remember that from the Cross, Jesus gave Mary as mother to the beloved disciple [John 19:26-27] – and we are all the beloved of Jesus), we find that our gaze is taken off of ourselves and so we grow in selflessness. Mary, as the perfect disciple, models true discipleship, and so we learn how to follow Christ more closely and faithfully. Mary always calls us to obedience to Jesus ("Do whatever He tells you," John 2:5). When we properly honor Mary, she stamps out heresy and error in our Church and in our hearts, for she helps us to see and worship Christ properly. And we were made to worship God. We will ultimately be unfulfilled if we turn our worship to lesser things (sorry to all of you who are Tom Brady worshipers out there!). By honoring Mary, she points us to true worship of God, and so helps us to become who we were made to be.

I encourage you to take some time this month to honor Our Lady. Pray the Rosary, a *Memorare* or the *Angelus*. Give your day into Mary's hands by starting and ending the day with a "Hail Mary" (if you don't know these prayers, check out ewtn.com/Devotionals/prayers/index.asp). Honor Mary so you can grow in your worship of Almighty God!