

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The first Glorious Mystery is the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. In this mystery, I often ponder not just the moment of Resurrection but the different appearances of Jesus from the Resurrection until His Ascension into Heaven 40 days later. One of my favorite scenes on which to meditate is by the Sea of Galilee as Jesus comes to Peter and the others who were fishing. Jesus makes breakfast for them (imagine that... God making breakfast for you!), and then He turns to Peter, who has denied Him, and asks him, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" (John 21: 15). I see the glorified, loving, forgiving, merciful face of Jesus in this moment, asking *me* if I love Him more than all of the distractions in my life, more than all of my sin. It is always a moment of conversion for me, as I am called to repent. This repentance is not from bad choices to good choices (as if I needed to "white knuckle it," forcing my will to overcome my weakness). Rather, it is all in the context of *love*: do I love Him more than the other things? Sacrifice can be hard, but love makes sacrifice sweet! **Mary**: help me to love Jesus more!

The second Glorious Mystery is the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven. Here, Jesus shows us the beauty of the Incarnation – the enfleshment of God. God shows us that He did not make the universe in such a way that spirit is good and matter (bodies, physical stuff) is bad. He made both body and spirit good! He shows this by taking on a body, by dying (to redeem us) in His body, by *rising again* in His body, and then by taking that body into heavenly glory. Think about this – the immortal, invisible God has now taken on a body and united it to Himself forever! Now, in Heaven, there *is* a face to behold, to ponder, to adore. The human face of Jesus is now and forever the face of God. Jesus said that to see Him is to see the Father (cf. John 14:9). To ponder the human face of Christ is to ponder the face of the Father. **Mary**: help me to adore the holy human face of Jesus in Heaven for all eternity.

The third Glorious Mystery is the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Mary and the disciples at Pentecost. Jesus sends us the Holy Spirit so that we can be one with Him. Now, the Holy Spirit infuses us into the body of Christ. With this mystery, I often ponder over how my face is now to be the face of Christ to the world. As I meditate on this, I wonder if people see Jesus when they see me or if I am too much in the way. **Mary**: help me to get out of the way of the Holy Spirit, so that my face may shine forth the face of Jesus.

The fourth Glorious Mystery is the Assumption of Mary into Heaven. I imagine Jesus coming to Mary at the end of her life on earth, and, with a radiant smile on His face, taking her by the hand, and bringing her, body and soul, into Heaven. What joy must have been in her heart as she saw her beloved Son, her God, again! What joy must have been in His heart to welcome His best disciple and well-beloved mother into her reward! And what happens to Mary is a foreshadowing of what will happen to each of us. If we are open to His grace and mercy, there will come a day when Jesus will welcome us into Heaven, as He says to each of us, "Well done, good and faithful servant." **Mary**: help me to keep my eyes on the end game – the smile on the face of Jesus when He comes to welcome me into Heaven.

The fifth Glorious Mystery is the coronation of Mary as queen of Heaven and Earth. By her perfect and complete fidelity to Christ – which means she is humble enough to let God work through her – God gives her authority over *everything*. I meditate on the glorious face of Jesus as He eagerly places this crown upon His mother's head. Mary must have been radiant with joy, not because of her own glory, but that God would be glorified over and over by giving such authority to a creature so lowly. St. Louis de Montfort says that, in a sense, Satan fears Mary more than God. Mary is a creature (naturally much less powerful than the seraphim, from which Satan fell), and God has all power and might. It would be easier to take a defeat at chess (for instance) by a champion player, than from a 10 year old who is just learning to play! So Satan's defeat to Mary is more humbling. **Mary**: help me always to turn to you in my need, for you have been given all authority, and you still love us as a mother; help me to be humble and docile to the Holy Spirit as you are.