

THE VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER AND TEACHER OF THE HUMAN HEART MOTHER ADELA GALINDO, FOUNDRRESS SCTJM



The maternity of Holy Mary is a gift, an immense gift that Christ has given to each one of his disciples and to the whole Church, like one of the pearls that flowed from his Agonizing Heart on the Cross. This maternity, that is a gift, is manifested in many forms in the life of the Church. Above all, it is manifested through the constant maternal mediation, care, protection, maternal education and formation, intercession, and battle that our Mother engages in for the life the Church. The apparitions of the Virgin should be placed precisely within her maternal love and her mission as mother and teacher of the human heart. They should be received with the necessary openness but also with the necessary prudence and discernment, as a visible sign of her maternity that continues in the Church until the end of time, as the Constitution *Lumen Gentium* from the Second Vatican Council teaches us: “By her maternal charity, she cares for the brethren of her Son, who still journey on earth surrounded by dangers and distress, until they are led into the happiness of their true home” (no. 62).

The maternity of Mary, Blessed John Paul II teaches us in the encyclical *Mother of the Redeemer*, is a “gift”: “Mary’s motherhood, which becomes man’s inheritance, is a gift: a gift which Christ himself makes personally to every individual. The Redeemer entrusts Mary to John because he entrusts John to Mary. At the foot of the Cross there begins that special entrusting of humanity to the Mother of Christ” (no. 45). And all gifts should be received with reverence, gratitude, with love and responsibility. The mature response of the human heart before a gift that it receives should always be to welcome it, to treasure it, to care for it and guard in it the heart, and to allow all the areas of his or her life to be irradiated by the presence and powerful effects of the gift. The human heart must receive the gift, guard the gift and allow the gift to form, mold and transform the whole life.

The response of St. John before the gift received was responsibility... “The same Apostle and Evangelist, after reporting the words addressed by Jesus on the Cross to his Mother and to himself, adds: ‘And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home’ (Jn 19:27)” (*RM*, 45). This affirmation means with certainty the he received her in all of his interior and exterior “space,” that he entered into an intimate relationship of a mother and a son. “And all of this can be included in the word ‘entrusting.’ Such entrusting is the response to a person’s love, and in particular to the love of a mother” (*ibid.*).

This maternal task flows from the gift of her maternity. The Holy Virgin has the mission, as a mother, of engendering us for the life of grace; of forming us and teaching us to live like Jesus; of indicating to us the way of sanctity; of correcting us and taking us through necessary purification and maturation; of preventing and protecting us from the dangers that threaten us: the world, the devil and the flesh. She comes to enter into dialogue with her children, to say to us, “Do not be afraid, am I not here who am your mother?” She comes to carry us to her home: “I want you to build me a house”....a house in which she sits, as a mother and Formator of the human heart to teach us, with great simplicity, the reason for our hope, the beauty of our faith, and the power of love. She is a mother that enters into dialogue with the hearts of her children to give us her love and to form us into images of her Son.

A Dialogue of love between the Maternal Heart and the human heart, for its formation

Redemptoris Mater, 45: “Of the essence of motherhood is the fact that it concerns the person. Motherhood always establishes a unique and unrepeatable relationship between two people: between mother and child and between child and mother. Even when the same woman is the mother of many

children, her personal relationship with each one of them is of the very essence of motherhood. For each child is generated in a unique and unrepeatable way, and this is true both for the mother and for the child. Each child is surrounded in the same way by that maternal love on which are based the child's development and coming to maturity as a human being."

I would like to present in a simple manner how our Mother, in her maternal manifestations to each one of us – either in the interior of our hearts -or in the apparitions for the good of the whole Church – enters into a dialogue of maternal love that profoundly heals our human hearts and at the same time, elevates them, forms them, and matures them, so that we can grow in grace, wisdom, and stature before God and men. (Lk 2, 52)

In the account of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Juan Diego narrates that, *upon climbing the hill* from which came the voice that called to him, *"my little Juan, my little Juan Diego,"* he had the blessing of seeing a young lady, *"who for love of him stood before him, and who had the delicacy of inviting him to come, "right next to Her."* Before her majestic, resplendent, luminous presence – yes, before the presence of the Virgin – Juan Diego *"prostrated himself, and listened to her venerable encouragement, her loving words, infinitely gracious, and at the same time majestic, fascinating, like a love that gives itself totally."* It was then that the Virgin said to him: *"Listen well my most little child, my little Juan: 'Where are you going?' And he replied, 'My Lady, my queen, I am going to your little house, going after the things of God that are taught to me there."*

With this dialogue begins the apparitions which today we know as the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe: a gift of God for us in which the Virgin reveals herself as a compassionate and kind Mother; as a mother of the faith; as a catechist and formator of each human person and of all peoples; as the luminous star of Evangelization; and as the driving force of a new civilization of love and life. It is an apparition that culminates with a unique and singular act, a primary gift for our American continent – and from which comes like a luminous ray for the entire world – the image of Our Lady that remains engraved, not painted, on the Tilma of Juan Diego. Engraved so that all of us can contemplate her maternal countenance and receive the potent graces she communicates to us from her living image, where we experience her heart teaching us, forming us in the "the things of God"...

She asked that, there, we build a *"little house," a "Nazareth"*...where she can receive and welcome her children, where she can give us a roof of love, where she can also make her school...where she can reveal her Maternal Heart that is a home and school of humanity. A Home where She can fully exercise the gift of her maternity... a mother that gives life, a mother that nurtures, a mother that heals, a mother that counsels, a mother that encourages, a mother that protects, a mother that advocates and intercedes, a mother that welcomes, a mother that liberates, a mother that teaches and a mother that forms the human heart.

To be there, "next to Her", like Juan Diego, before her tender and majestic, compassionate and luminous image, seated at her feet to listen to her words and her wisdom, her most intimate communication, her most intimate desires; to be seated at her feet to experience so perceptibly her Maternal Heart as a Home and School of the human heart, as a formator of our hearts, as a star and guide that indicates to us the way of fulfillment of God's will – this is truly a gift, a difficult gift to explain with words, but one that evokes in our hearts the same response of love that the heart of Juan Diego professed to the Lady from Heaven in the second apparition: *"My Lady, my little Virgin, I hope that I never grieve your venerable countenance, your beloved heart; with great joy I will go; I go certainly put into action your venerable and loving words and encouragement; in no way will I permit myself to cease*

doing what you are asking me, and neither do I consider the path difficult. I will go, therefore, to put into action your venerable will."

We see, in these words of Juan Diego, what should be an echo in our own hearts: that the most visible, palpable and fecund fruit of "being next to Her," of being close to Our Lady's Heart, seated in her Home and her School, is being awakened and formed in dispositions proper to an authentic and responsible love:

- To not "*grieve the love of God, and the love of the Mother*"...to not grieve their countenance, their hearts, nor the heart of their Son.
- To listen generously and attentively to the designs of their hearts.
- To be faithful, selfless, generous, sacrificial and determined to cooperate in the realization of those designs.
- To give ourselves totally and unreservedly to carry out, in loving obedience, their desires.
- To be prompt in completing them.
- To have a sense of responsibility in completing the task that has been entrusted to us. This ardor that is the fire of love in the human heart, also carries with it a task...because love, if is authentic, also carries with it a sense of responsibility and fidelity in the fulfillment of the entrusted task. In the heart of Juan Diego, we very markedly see the sense of "*returning*" to give account of the task completed and of the fruits and difficulties: "*Tomorrow in the afternoon, when the sun sets, I will return to your venerable encouragement, to your beloved word, with their response.*"

Our Mother is Teacher of "the things of God" for the human heart. She is our Mother of the Spiritual Life. "Mary kept all these things in her heart" (Lk 2).

Only those who contemplate ardently the face of Christ can reveal it to the others... "*No one has dedicated themselves more faithfully to the contemplation of the face of Christ than Mary*" (RVM, 10).

Only she who has "seen" Christ in all of its facets and has been there faithfully "looking" and "testifying" can teach us to look at him with the eyes of the heart and to discover His face in all the events of life. Only she who has dedicated her attention to listening to the voice of God can teach others to listen to him, to incline the interior ear to hear his voice. Only she who has carefully kept and treasured each word of Christ in her heart can "give us" "teach us about" these mysteries, inviting us to sit with Her to learn to contemplate them, to pray with these memories so much treasured and kept in Her Heart.

Only she who has kept the mysteries of God in her heart can communicate them, witness to them, explain them, and teach the way to make them be the path of our own lives. Only she who obeys in everything the will of God can be a luminous guide, the star of the sea of the horizon of each heart, family, nation to guide us in the fulfillment of God's loving will. Only the heart who has totally been available to His Will can be the luminous lighthouse that guides and teaches others to live in loving obedience and to do everything "*that He says*"... Only She that offers her life, in the spirit of a "servant," in order to carry out the will of God can, with serene certainty and determined conviction, invite others as well to place themselves at the service of God's plan and to say in all things "*Let it be done*".

Because of these simple reasons of love, because of the logic of love and because of the coherency of love, we can say with great joy that the Holy Virgin is our teacher in "the things of God," just like she has been for Juan Diego, for St. Catherine Labouré, for Bernadette, for Jacinta, Francisco and Lucia, for St. John Bosco, for St. Louis de Montfort, for St. Maximilian Kolbe, for Bl. John Paul II...and for each of us.

All the saints have sat at the feet of the Virgin, to learn from the Heart of Mary, in her Home and School – not simply to "learn *about* Christ," but to "learn Christ." Who can teach us better the memories of Christ? Who can form us in the "stature of Christ" more than her with whom He grew? It is in her Maternal Heart where we learn to "read Christ," to discover his mysteries, to understand his

messages.... It is from her Maternal Womb that we are “born again,” like Nicodemus, to live a life in Christ....

It is her who can teach us to look like Christ in our countenance, in our gestures, in our image, in our behavior, conduct, personalities and in our hearts. She is the one who cooperated, with maternal love and wisdom, in educating and forming the God-made-Man, as we can read in the Gospel of Luke that in the House of Nazareth, Jesus grew in wisdom, grace and stature before God and men. What a gift! The Motherhood of Mary is a such a gift....and as St. Louis de Montfort teaches us, *“That which she did with Him, she will do with us.”*

In the words of Our Lady of Guadalupe we see how she desires to communicate the fruits of her maternal mission: *“I yearn with the desire for them to have the kindness to build me a home here... so that I can show them my Son presenting himself and giving himself to them....He that is all of my love. So that there I can give them all of my maternal and compassionate love; so that I can listen to their cries, their sadness; so that I can purify and heal all their different miseries, sorrows and pain; and so that I can do with all certainty all that He desires.”*

Pope Paul VI taught us in *Marialis Cultus* that marian spirituality is not an accessory complement for the Christian life, but an essential dimension of it (no. 21). She is the Mother and Teacher of the spiritual life that shows us how to make of our lives an act of worship and making our worship a commitment of our lives (ibid). And the “yes” of Mary is for all Christians a lesson and example of how to make obedience to the Father’s will the means and the path to our own personal sanctification. “Behold the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done unto me according to your Word... Do whatever He tells you.”

Let us Sit in the School of the Heart of Mary, the Home and School of the Human Heart

In our cenacle on May 14, 2011, the Lord gave us an inspired message that profoundly touched our hearts: “The Heart of My Mother was My Home and My School. The heart of My Mother, full of grace, is also the home of each of you and also your school. In the Heart of My Mother my beloved disciples are formed. In the heart of My Mother one learns to love me, one learns to hear me, one learns to contemplate My mysteries, one learns to mold himself into My image and likeness. In the heart of My Mother great works of grace, sanctity, and fecundity are conceived.

“Her heart receives with freedom; her heart receives with full obedience and docility to the will of God. In the heart of My Mother learn to listen to me. In the heart of My Mother learn to obey me, learn to have a heart inclined toward me. In the heart of My Mother be born, grow, mature and arrive at the plentitude of my greatest works of grace.

“Enter into the heart of My Mother, allowt her to teach you the way of purification, the way of elevation and sanctification. Allow her to be your Mother and Teacher, grow seated at her feet. She is not only a Mother, but a Teacher. Allow her to form you to be my true disciples. True disciples contemplate my mysteries; true disciples keep silent before those mysteries. The true disciple leaves everything, above all himself. The true disciple is ready to follow me in whichever moment, to whatever place, for whatever the Kingdom needs. The true disciple puts himself aside to do the Will of the Father.

“True disciples are formed in the heart of My Mother. In that heart full of grace, the disciples are purified; there the human heart learns to love me, learns to listen to me, learns to obey me. In the heart of My Mother – with the dispositions of her heart, under her maternity, in obedience to her, under her teaching and maternal wisdom – disciples and witnesses are formed.

"The heart of My Mother is a gift that I give to you; her heart is a gift of My Heart. The heart of My Mother is your home, where you are born, where you grow, mature and reach your plentitude: plentitude of stature, plentitude of wisdom, plentitude of grace before God and men.

“Here is your Mother! I present and entrust to you the heart of My Mother, your home and your school. The home of your Mother and the school of your Teacher. Enter into her immaculate and maternal heart. She has been entrusted with conceiving, nurturing and giving birth to My works of grace. She has been entrusted with the formation of the human heart; allow yourselves to be guided by her maternal heart; give her fully your hearts. Welcome her into your “home”, into your “interior”, into “your heart”, into “your life” as your Mother and Teacher. May she do with you what she did with me.... May she make with you and of you a gift for My Heart.”

May we be able to exclaim like St. Catherine Labouré, who at the feet of the Virgin, was instructed by her as she sat in a chair, *“There I passed the sweetest moments of my life; it would be impossible for me to say what I felt.”* And like Juan Diego, upon being “next to Her” at Tepeyac, may we also be able to experience here on earth the effects of her maternal presence and her instruction: *“my heart was not perturbed when I was with her, I was not afraid before her but rather, I was always happy, overflowing with joy*”

May we all depart from our encounters with the Heart of Our Lady, with the same ardor of Juan diegos’s heart and may we go to proclaim to all men, just like Our Lady asked him “all the details”: all that we have heard, all that we have contemplated in Her Heart, all that we have learned from her maternal teaching and formation, all that we have heard from her word and encouragement, how much we have learned about the things of God in her Home and her School.

Let us be wise...Let us enter into the School of the Maternal Heart of Mary.

Sirach 51:13-30

“When I was young and innocent, I sought wisdom.
She came to me in her beauty, and until the end I will cultivate her.
As the blossoms yielded to ripening grapes, the heart’s joy, my feet kept to the level path because from the earliest youth I was familiar with her.
In the short time I paid heed, I met with great instruction.
Since in this way I have profited, i will give my teacher grateful praise.
I become resolutely devoted to her – the good I persistently strove for.
I burned with desire for her, never turning back.
I became preoccupied with her, never weary of extolling her.
My hand opened her gate and I came to know her secrets.
For her I purified my hands; in cleanness I attained to her.
At first acquaintance with her, I gained understanding such that I will never forsake her.
My whole being was stirred as I learned about her; therefore I have made her my prize possession.
The Lord has granted me my lips as a reward and my tongue will declare his praises.
Come aside to me, you untutored, and take up lodging in the house of instruction; how long will you be deprived of wisdom’s food, how long will you endure such bitter thirst?
I open my mouth and speak of her: gain, at no cost, wisdom for yourselves.
Submit your neck to her yoke, that your mind may accept her teaching.
For she is close to those who seek her, and the one who is in earnest finds her.
See for yourselves! I have labored only a little, but have found much.
Acquire but a little instruction; you will win silver and gold through her.
Let your spirits rejoice in the mercy of God, and be not ashamed to give him praise.
Work at your tasks in due season, and in his own time God will give you your reward.”