

Our Lady of Trust

Memories by Franca Salvo, A.O.

- On June 15, 1955, I entered the Chapel of the Apostolic Oblates in Rome at Via delle Egadi, and I saw the image of Our Lady of Trust for the first time! It was a big picture hanging in the middle of the main wall of the Chapel.
- I looked and looked at the picture and noticed some details that touched me deeply. What I perceived strengthened me in my resolution to give my life to the Lord through the hands of Mary. I treasured those moments... They have accompanied me on my journey, and are with me still.
- Bishop Giaquinta, the founder of the Apostolic Oblates and the whole Pro Sanctity Family, had a great devotion to Mary, Mother of Trust. Listening to him talk on Mary was like... listening to a beautiful melody. The only thing you would want was to love Mary like he did! How many times I heard him speaking of Mary of Trust, how many! He always used to end his meditations and presentations with Mary! He wrote books on Mary. His prayers and poems on Mary are beautiful! (see **PRAYERS**, page 46 on. **The Prayer to Our Lady of Trust; O Mary, Trust, and the Hymn “To Mary of Trust” translated few days ago, and edited by Rita Hejkal**).
- Let us look together at the picture:
 - Mary is holding the Baby Jesus; her left arm surrounds her Son and her fingers rest gently on Jesus’ shoulder. Her right hand holds a white cloth which she presses to Jesus’ side. *Was Mary anticipating the lanced side of Jesus from which the whole sacramental life of the Church would spring forth?*
 - Jesus has His right arm around Mary’s neck; His left arm is turned toward Mary with His finger pointing out to the heart of His mother. *Is Jesus inviting us to go to Mary to learn how to love and serve God?*
 - Jesus and Mary are not looking at each other; their glance is upon the person who looks at the picture. Their glance conveys peace, inspires confidence and hope, fills the heart with tenderness... And this is the promise that Mary made to Sr. Clair Isabelle Fornari, *“By means of her Son, every person who with trust looks at this image will be granted within themselves a particular tenderness and devotion to her.”*
- Some more reflections:
 - Mary is wrapped up in her Son: Jesus is her all.
 - Jesus rests in Mary’s arms. He invites us to go to Mary; to draw trust from her heart; to learn from Mary to walk in faith, hope and love; to hope against hope; to keep on loving even at the foot of the Cross.

- The embrace of Mary and Jesus expresses an invitation: to appreciate and strive to develop that tender bond of love uniting the Mother to the Son... a love that is poured out upon us, as their look directed toward those who look at the image seems to suggest.
- Mary pressing a cloth to the Child Jesus' side: is she inviting us to reflect on the price her Son paid to bring about 'the new creation'? Is Mary reassuring us that Jesus loves us infinitely, has given us His very life through the Sacraments of Mother Church, and that we, thus, have nothing to fear? She looks at us and looks... She wishes to free us from our fears, to transform us, and to unite us to her Son...
- We have many fears. The word **fear** and **fear not** is found **327 in the Bible!** The word **trust** 205, and confidence 36!
- In the particular time we are in, especially after September 11, devotion to our Lady of Trust is the answer. We groan under personal pains, sufferings, anxiety, uncertainties and confusion: Mary will give us the peace, certainty and trust we need. Let us go to her, to her school and learn.
 - **At the Annunciation** (Lk 1:26-38) Mary listens, questions, understands, gives her availability. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38).
 - **At the Visitation** (Lk 1:39-56), Mary is greeted by Elizabeth with words put in her heart by the Holy Spirit, "Blest are you among women... Blest is she who trusted that the Lord's words to her would be fulfilled." (Lk 1:42/45) And Mary sings the beautiful Magnificat (Lk 1:46-55). She sings of the greatness of God and of her nothingness. "God Who is mighty has done great things for me and holy is His name" (Lk 1:49) .. "All ages to come will call me blessed" (Lk 1:48). How true!
 - **At the birth of Jesus** (Lk 2:1-20), Mary sees the Angels singing, sees the Shepherds... treasures all these things and reflects on them "in her heart" (Lk 2:19).
 - **At Cana** (Jn 2:1-11) Mary is fully present - as always! - sees needs, goes to her Son presenting the needs of her children. "They have no more wine," and instructs those waiting on table, "do whatever He tells you" (Jn 2:5). We know what happened! "Jesus performed the first of His signs" (Jn 2:11).
 - **At the foot of the Cross, Mary** stands and listens to the words of her Son, " Woman, behold your son!" "Behold your mother!" (Jn 19:26-27).
 - **At the Cenacle**, where the Apostles gather in prayer, Mary, the mother of Jesus, is with them (Acts 1:14)

**Ad Iesum per Mariam
To Jesus through Mary!**