



Marianist Moments

Feast of St. John, the Evangelist

December 27

~ Meeting aid ~



Introduction

On December 27, the Church celebrates the feast of St. John the Evangelist. The Gospel of John mentions this beloved disciple of Jesus, who stood at the foot of the cross along with Mary, Mother of Jesus. Traditionally, this beloved disciple is considered to be St. John, the Evangelist, one of Jesus' apostles, and the author of the fourth Gospel, the Book of Revelation, and three Epistles of the New Testament.

Prayer

Adapted from the Mass of St. John, the Evangelist

✠ Eternal God, who through St. John the Apostle, revealed to us the mystery of your Divine Word, grant that we may always seek a deeper understanding of your mystical Word. Lord God, grant us, who have received the Blessed Virgin Mary as our mother through St. John the beloved disciple, the grace always to seek her guidance to become more like her son, Jesus. We pray for your peace throughout the world. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.

Scripture Reading

John 19: 25-27, RSVCE

So the soldiers did this. But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Mag'dalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

Silent Introspection

Marian Writings, Vol 1, 229, William Joseph Chaminade

Contemplate the following text from Father Chaminade commenting on how Jesus on the Cross gave us his mother Mary through his beloved disciple, John.

. . . "Jesus said to his mother, 'Woman, this is your son.' Jesus addresses his Mother first. Mary accepts, Mary conceives us, and immediately Jesus informs his beloved disciple that Mary has begotten him, that she is his Mother. "Then to the disciple he said, 'This is you mother.'"

St. John is not mentioned here by name, but by his title of disciple, because the mystery of his rebirth in Mary is not carried out in his person alone, but in that of all the disciples of Jesus Christ . . .



Group Sharing

Meditating on the feast of St. John the Evangelist, how does the example of St. John, who was given Mary as his mother, invite us to do the same by receiving her as our Mother?



✠ May the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary. Amen.