Mary, Model of the Servant Church

Mary wants to remind us that love is what is deepest and most significant about the Christian, and that love is expressed in service. Thus she shows us, with her example, that the Church is and wants to be a servant of mankind.

It is easy to speak of love and charity, but it is very difficult to practice them because to love means to serve and to serve requires denying oneself. If it were not this way, we would be in paradise since we, all men and all Christians, are in agreement to sing the beauties of love.

Nevertheless, there are still wars, social injustices, and political persecutions in the world. It is because it is costly to love, because to serve is costly. It is because original sin inclines us to always seek our own interest, to want to dominate and to be in the center.

But, what is to serve? Jesus himself explains it: to serve is to give one’s life for others, it is giving oneself to others. To serve is giving of oneself, giving to another our concern and our time, our love.

Serviceable is the woman who irons late at night the shirt her husband needs; or who spends the night alongside her sick child. Serviceable is the one who turns off the television set during the soap opera in order to receive a neighbor and listen to his problems. Serviceable is he who gives up rest time to spend time with his children or to participate at a meeting at work.

Servant Church. The Church of the Council proclaims herself as a Church Servant to the world and mankind. Therefore She chose Mary as a model of that attitude.

We often believe that we are serving God because we say a prayer to Him or fulfill a promise. Let us look at Mary: She surrenders her entire life to Him in order to fulfill the task which God entrusted to her through the angel.

Through the angel, Mary knows that her Son will be King of the universe and that Elizabeth’s son will only be his forerunner. But She is the one who goes to where her cousin lived. And She doesn’t look for excuses for being with child or for daring such a long trip.

When the angel announces to Her that she will be the Mother of God, Mary then understands that this vocation requires her to become the first servant of God and of mankind.

Sacrifice and service. In order to build a new world which we all desire, a great spirit of sacrifice and service is needed. The Church and the Homeland belong to everyone and they will succeed with everyone’s generous surrender.

But this service which is asked of us, has to be given in the spirit of Christ and Mary. It should be a service which really seeks the giving of myself to others and not my personal power, nor my absolute dominion of my business or of my team. We do not want to replace a dominant class for another which brings new forms of oppression.

Without this spirit, neither the Church nor the Homeland will be renewed, even if social differences diminish. Justice which is not accompanied by serviceable love is inhuman. It is justice without soul.

Let us ask Her who helps us to build a Church according to her image, a Church which serves mankind, that it truly be the soul of a better Homeland.

Questions for reflection
1. Do I consider myself a person who serves others?
2. What else can I do for the Church?
3. Is my service impregnated by Christ and Mary?

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