



THE TENDERNESS OF THE MOTHER

MARCH 2019

“Discovering again the tenderness of Mary as a Mother has been an important moment for me. Having lost my mother as a little girl, it’s been a revelation that changed my life! I found in Her a model to inspire me. This ‘encounter’ with Mary, the Mother, accompanies me and safeguards me in everyday life.” (Irene)

Since Christ entrusted Mary from the cross to the apostle John, she has become Mother to humanity and we are all her children. How lovely to journey in life with the knowledge that Mary is our Mother; feel her nearby in every moment of our life especially when we are tired and discouraged, because her love is a concrete love. Mary’s relationship with each child is personal and unique; we can therefore recognize in her a true mother and entrust ourselves to her maternal love.

Filial abandonment in Mary is the secret of the martyr of Auschwitz’s sanctity.

“Mary: here is she whom we need. Saint Bernard affirms that we have nothing to fear if we abandon ourselves with trust in her...she is a so good and humble mother, who presents herself to Jesus to plead in favor of those who have need of her protection” (KW 1299).

He who considered himself unworthy of Mary’s love wrote: *“Who falls into sin...has to despair maybe? No, he has a Mother given to him by God, who follows with a tender heart every action, word, thought. She doesn’t worry of the fact of whether he feels unworthy or not of her tenderness. She is only the mother of mercy, therefore she hastens to help, even if not called upon.” (KW 1094)*

In the homily of January 1 2018, **Pope Francis** affirmed. *“Many devotions, many shrines and chapels in the most secluded places, many images spread in homes bring to mind this great truth. Mary has given us maternal warmth, that which envelopes us in the midst of hardships; the maternal warmth that allows that nothing and no one extinguish in the heart of the Church the revolution of the tenderness inaugurated by her Son. Where a mother is, there is tenderness...we are not orphans, we have a mother.”*

Saint Maximilian Kolbe, who in many occasions in life experienced the tenderness of the Immaculata, in the camp of Auschwitz, becomes an icon of the tenderness of Mary for many companions of misfortune. *“When my shift of work was completed, I would go to him, he would take my head, and rest it on his breast as a mother does with her child...and he entrusted me to Mary saying: “She is the comforter of the afflicted, the one who listens to everyone and helps those who call upon her”...I owe very much to her maternal heart” (P. Treece, Maximilian Kolbe, pg. 179).*

The Missionaries of Harmese, Poland



Entrust **St. Maximilian** with your **desires, dreams, and hopes**. The missionaries will pray for your intentions every day, and on the fourteenth of every month, they will carry them to Auschwitz where Fr. Kolbe gave his life so that another might live. At his cell they will ask his intercession. Write to: celakolbe@kolbemission.org

Do not forget love.
for Missionaries of Harmese

Misjonarki
Niepokalanej Ojca Kolbego