



THE GIFT OF A MOTHER

APRIL 2019

“Behold your mother” these words of John the evangelist, which will resound in the liturgy of Good Friday, fill our hearts with hope because they make us understand the unlimited love God has for humanity.

St. Maximilian wrote:

What could You have given me more, O God, after having offered Yourself to me to become mine?... Your Heart, inflamed with love for me, suggested to You another gift, yes, yet one more gift!... You asked us to become children, if we wish to enter the heavenly kingdom [cf. Mt 18:3]. You well know that a child needs a mother: You Yourself established this law of love. Your goodness, Your mercy, therefore, created for us a Mother... From the cross, on Golgotha, You offered her to us and us to her. (KW 1145).

John the evangelist places the scene of the gift of the mother at the center of events of Calvary (crucifixion, seamless garment, gift of the Mother, it is finished, piece by a spear).

Jesus cannot breathe his last without having fulfilled the Father’s will, without first having “everything” done. He still must make the most beautiful gift to humanity. Naked on the cross, even his robes the soldiers have shared, he has nothing more than a mother, his mother Mary, and gives her to us as the most precious and dear good.

“Behold your Son”, “Behold your mother”: a new relationship is born between Mary and the disciple, that of Mother and Son.

“The Redeemer entrusts his mother to the disciple, and at the same time he gives her to him as his mother. Mary’s motherhood, which becomes man’s inheritance, is a gift: a gift which Christ himself makes personally to every individual.” (RM 45).

Speaking of Mary and the disciple John we speak of two individuals and concrete people who are at the foot of the Cross, but in the disciple John is represented every man and woman. Each disciple, therefore, like the apostle John, is called to accept with faith the gift of the Mother. *“At the foot of the Cross there begins that special entrusting of humanity to the Mother of Christ...Such entrusting is the response to a person’s love, and in particular to the love of a mother.*

The Marian dimension of the life of a disciple of Christ is expressed in a special way precisely through this filial entrusting to the Mother of Christ, which began with the testament of the Redeemer on Golgotha.” (RM 45).

From the gift of Mary as mother comes a new family, the Church, in which the *“father is God; the mother, the Immaculata; the eldest brother, the divine Prisoner of love in the Eucharist, while all the others are not companions, but brother and minor brothers, who love one another.” (KW 1222).*

What a beautiful family!

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