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**Here is your mother!** (Jn 19: 25-27)

*“Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, 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 into his home.”*

Jesus gave life to a community with the beloved disciple and Mary in the center. The community born on Calvary was born from persons that “stood by the cross,” looked at the Crucified One, and listened to his last words.

These words expressed a desire, a final testament: Jesus willed that John be the son of Mary and Mary the mother of John. The last words of Jesus call to mind the formula of the covenant: “You will be my people and I will be your God” (Ez 36; 28). We recall the formula of love: “My lover belongs to me and I to him” (Songs 2: 16). They are words of mutual belonging, possible only in Christ. John and Mary belong to the Lord Jesus, who was crucified for love of them and each one of us.

**“And from that hour the disciple took her into his home” (Jn 19, 27b).** He took her into his environment,<sup>1</sup> his whole way of being. As Saint Ambrose explained it, “John took her among those spiritual goods that the apostles received and never again left.” Jesus’ last words regard the beginning of a new humanity through the fulfillment of God’s plan, in which we come down from Calvary into the Cenacle with Mary, who guides and supports us in the journey of life.

**Father Kolbe** welcomed this same Mother into his life. He entrusts himself totally to her and is made capable of being transformed according to the model of her Son. He conformed his life to the Immaculata. She took possession of his heart and whole being, so that She lived and worked in and through him. Father Kolbe knew it is necessary to totally give ourselves to the Immaculata even offering of our life, but one’s personal offering isn’t enough. It is necessary to work together, united, orderly, in harmony of mind and of ideals. Together our work is sure, easy, and fruitful.

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<sup>1</sup>“eis ta’ idia” means “the proper environment.” It can also mean one’s house, but from context it’s environment” (Ugo Vanni s.j.).

<sup>2</sup>cf. Kolbe Writings 1210

**Angela Esposito**  
*for the community*