

## **Mary: Mother of Justice**

A very important theme that is present in the documents of the Second Vatican Council is the need for the Christian to develop a faith that does Justice. Mary is not only a model of justice and conversion for the individual Christian but for the whole Church. Mary can be rightly called as the model of justice because she heard the word of God and lived it in a spirit of service and justice. Justice calls for service. And service calls for sacrifice. In the gospel of Luke chapter 1, verse 38, Mary said, "Here I am the servant of the Lord; let it done to me according to your word." Mary inspires us to be as much for others as we are for ourselves. This reminds us Jesus' commandment to love one's neighbor as oneself. This also reminds us that our life becomes joyful in giving to others our service. By holding Mary in high regard we are called to make the cries of the needy our own, just like Mary who was there at the wedding feast at Cana at the desperate hour of the family.

We are called to serve in the same way as Mary did. To be at the service of others, this demands for sacrifice. When Mary said yes to God she had to sacrifice her all to do the will of God, expecting nothing in return. The Christian call to service is also the same. The words of Jesus dying on the cross is grounded in justice when He said, "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do." Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Jesus' act is far beyond our justice. It is a leap from human justice to divine love. In human terms, our justice is formal and limited but God's justice goes beyond all human thinking. God's justice is more ethical. It is a justice that justifies itself through the God given gifts of love and reconciliation. When we call Mary as the Mother of justice, it is implicitly understood that the Mother of Our Savior is a Mother of Justice. And the Magnificat is the clear example for what God has done in justice, holiness and Mercy. Two thousand years ago it was a real challenge for Mary to say yes to God's will. Today we are also challenged to take up the cries of the poor and oppressed. The word justice demands from us deeds of justice. Our own community must be one of generosity, holiness and love. We cannot claim to know God if we fail at justice. Our piety without deeds of justice is like the sound of an empty gong.

So dear confreres, as we our fast approaching the feast of assumption let our prayers be a form of service to others. Let it not count on anything. We received mercy and justice freely. Let us like our blessed mother give freely our service to others. Mary was there in times of need. More importantly Mary reiterates the need to liberate all people especially those submerged in sin. In the current scenario we see how the world is drenched in sin. The furrow of holiness has been covered with dark ashes of stain and sin. The devil is luring the young of today through various traps of pleasure and violence. The wiles of the devil are so strong that even the strong foundations of faith have been shaken to the core.

At this moment let us pray to our blessed Mother that she may plead with her Son and intercede for those who are reeling in sin, so that her Son may relieve or at least strengthen the world to stand against the wiles of the evil one. It is through Mary to Jesus and from Jesus to our heavenly Father.