

“MORNING STAR”

Dear fathers and brothers, as we are in the Marian month, I wish to share with you a few reflections on our Bl. Mother as the morning star. In fact, there is no title in all the litany more descriptive of Mary's loving office to men than “morning star.” She is called the morning star, because just as the morning star announces the coming of the day, appearing in the sky and reflecting the light of the sun, Mary appeared on the horizon of the salvation history before Christ, and shows us the way to him. She reflects the light of the creator and redeemer and exalts his glory. In short, this title reveals and emphasizes Mary's great role in our salvation as our intercessor, and as the mediatrix of all graces. This is why I said is the beginning: “there is no title in all the litany more descriptive of; Mary's loving office to men than ‘morning star.’”

The title “morning star” has always had a special application to Mary. The church interprets the verse in the Canticle of Canticles as descriptive of her. “Who is she that comes forth as the morning rising, fair as the moon, bright as the sun?” In old cathedrals, our lady's chapel was situated behind the choir and the high altar, and to the extreme east, as the symbol of her as the morning star.

So Christians are brought to glory by the intercession of Mary. “As Dante would say, if thou follow but thy star, you cannot min at last a glorious haven,”

Any description of our blessed mother as the star of the sea would be incomplete without a reference to St. Bernard. In one of his classis, he writes exhorting us to seek refuge in this gracious Mother. “In dangers, in sufferings, in doubt-think of Mary and invoke her aid. Let Mary be always in your heart and often upon your lips. To obtain her help in death follow her example in life. In following her, you will not go astray, by praying to her you will not despair, if you cling to her, you will not go wrong, with her support, you fall not; under her protection you have no fear; under her guidance you do not grow weary; if she is gracious to you, you will reach the port. Thus you will experience how rightly it is said; ‘and the virgins name was Mary.’”

Dear friends, I have spoken quite a fit about our Bl. Mother, most of which we are already familiar of convinced about given the fact that we are Catholics and Salesians, we all have a tender devotion to our Bl. Mother. But often our devotion is limited to a few personal and community practices of piety. A true devotion implies 3 things; knowing, having and imitating the person one is devoted to. Of course, we all know a lot about her. Sadly though this knowledge has caused us to look at her only as the mother of God and a great saint, We tend to forget that she too was a human being like all of us and that we too can become like her, if only we follow her example in our life. As we have already heard, to obtain her help in death we must follow the example in life. And that is precisely why she is called the morning star or the star of the sea, because she is the ‘star’ that we must follow in order to see Jesus and to reach heaven. Let this be our goal in this Marian month; to love her deeply and to imitate her in our life.

May the morning star our dear mother, help us all.