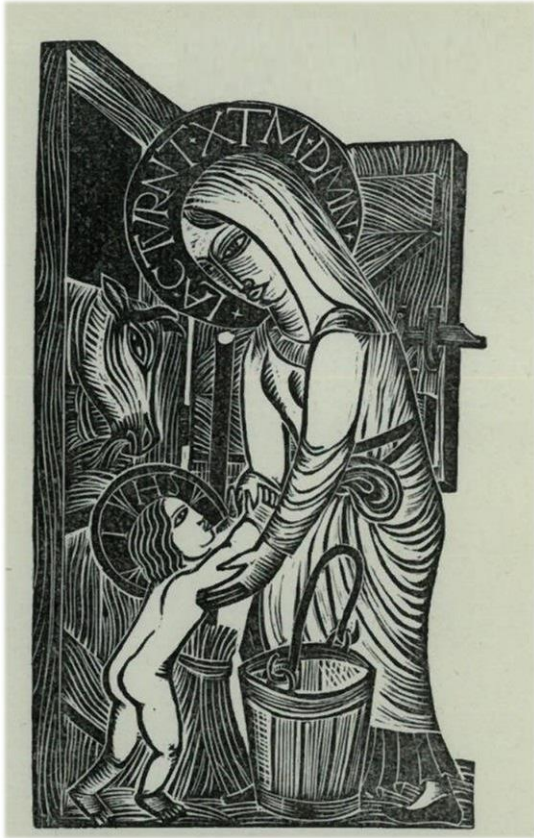


A REFLECTION AND A PRAYER FOR THE MARIAN MONTH OF MAY



A Prayer to Mary (Adapted)

*Mother of silence, who watches over the mystery of God,
Save us from the idolatry of the present time,
to which those who forget are condemned....*

*Take us back to the freshness of the origins,
for a prayerful, penitent Church.*

*Mother of the beauty that blossoms
from faithfulness to daily work,
lift us from the torpor of laziness, pettiness, and defeatism...*

*Let us discover the joy
of a humble, brotherly, sisterly, serving Church.*

*Mother of tenderness who envelops us in patience and mercy,
help us burn away the sadness, impatience and rigidity
of those who do not know what it means to belong.*

*Intercede with your Son to obtain that our hands,
our feet, our hearts be agile:
let us build the Church with the Truth of love.*

*Mother, help us to be the People of God,
pilgrims bound for the Kingdom. Amen.*

Pope Francis in May 2013 (two months after his election as Pope)

A Reflection on Mary

(from Pope Francis' Encyclical 'Evangelii Gaudium 286')

*Mary was able to turn a stable into a home for Jesus,
with poor swaddling clothes and an abundance of love.
She is the handmaid of the Father who sings his praises.
She is the friend who is ever concerned
that wine not be lacking in our lives.
She is the woman whose heart was pierced by a sword
and who understands all our pain.
As mother of all, she is a sign of hope for peoples
suffering the birth pangs of justice.
She is the missionary who draws near to us
and accompanies us throughout life,
opening our hearts to faith by her maternal love.
As a true mother, she walks at our side,
she shares our struggles
and she constantly surrounds us with God's love.*

