

SAINT LOUIS ABBEY



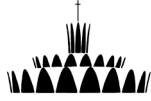
The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother and Mediatrix of Grace

The Blessed Virgin Mary is the Patroness of our monastery and our school – therefore of each one of you – under the title of ‘Mother and Mediatrix of Grace’. What does this title mean?

The Blessed Virgin Mary is the Mother of Jesus, both as God and as man. As the Mother of Jesus as man, she is the Mother of that share in the divine life in him as man which he possesses with unique fullness because he is the Son of God. This share in the divine life we call grace. So she is the Mother of the grace in Jesus. When we are baptized, we receive a share in that grace, that share in the divine life, of Jesus; all the grace, the share in the divine life, we receive comes from Jesus. So she is also the Mother of the grace in us. This, then, is why we call her the Mother of grace: she is the Mother both of the grace in Jesus and of the grace in us. As the Mother of the grace in us, she is our own, our true Mother, in the order of, in the sphere of, grace and the Spirit. Our human mother is our mother only in the order of, in the sphere of, nature. This is why Jesus says to his disciple John, who represents all of us, “Son, behold your Mother.” He gives his Mother to John, and to each of us, to be our Mother.

As the Mother of each of us, Mary loves us, cares for us, just as the greatest, the best of mothers would. The greatest, the best, the most powerful thing she does for us is to intercede for us with her Son Jesus, to pray to him to fulfill all our needs. Thus, if we need something, we can turn to her in prayer and ask her to ask her Son Jesus to help us, and she will most certainly do that, and he will most certainly do that. Again, we can pray directly to Jesus, and we know that whenever we do, she will join her prayers to ours, asking him to grant us what we need, and superabundantly more than we need. And finally, if we are so overwhelmed and disheartened in our need that we don’t pray either to Jesus or to her, then as the most loving of mothers she sees and knows what we need anyway, and prays to Jesus most earnestly for it – and how can he not respond to the prayers of his Mother? This is what we see her doing in the Gospel: the wine had run out, and the poor bride and groom, and the servants, were so distressed and embarrassed and dispirited that they didn’t say anything to the Lord, and probably not to her either. But she at once saw what they needed anyway, and at once went to her Son and interceded with him, and he answered her prayer, and gave them a mysterious, a wonderful wine. You can see, then, that as our most loving Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary is as it were our go-between between ourselves and her Son, Our Lord Jesus, that is, she is our Mediatrix, for that is just what ‘Mediator’, ‘Mediatrix’ means, a go-between, a person who intercedes for us with another, and obtains blessings for us by that intercession.

The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother and Mediatrix of Grace: it is all summed up for us by that beautiful statue of our Blessed Mother which was a gift to all of us for our Golden Jubilee and which now stands outside the front of our Church; there is a little reproduction of the statue on the front cover of the program for this Mass. You see that the Virgin Mary has flowing down from her shoulders a huge, a mysterious cloak, and



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under that cloak are all kinds of little people, all the human race in fact, because she is the mother of each of us, the mother of you, as a child of God, as a brother or sister of Jesus, as one filled with grace: the Mother of Grace. And you see also that she is drawing all of us and Jesus together: she gestures with her right hand that we should all look toward Jesus, and she is whispering our needs into his ear; then he is looking down on us, his hand raised in blessing, pouring grace down upon us. And so there she also is, the Mediatrix of Grace.

The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother and Mediatrix of Grace. How wonderful! And how wonderful that Jesus has given her under this title to each of us as our patroness. She is his special gift to you as a student, as a faculty member, as a friend, as a monk, of this School and Abbey, and she will remain your Mother and Mediatrix all the days of your life. Turn to her often, then. If possible, today or in the next few days, go out to her statue before the Church and pray there for a while. Receive your Mother into your heart, make a home for her there, carry her there with you all the days of your life. Then she will take you to the home of herself and her Son Jesus, where Jesus has prepared a place for you, and they will welcome you into their home, into their heart, for all the days, for all the endless Day, of eternity.