



### Mary Still Sings: “He has Lifted Up the Meek and the Lowly”

Hail Mary  
full of Grace  
the LORD is with you.

萬福瑪利亞  
妳充滿聖寵主與妳在

#### Why Mary is Important?

When we think or speak of Mary, the Mother of God, it is always important to keep in mind that she is best understood in the context of her relationship with her son, Jesus. Said formally, Mariology is always constructed in the context of Christology. This is so because Christ is the redeemer and the sole source of salvation. Everything in creation came to be through him. Mary, because of her role, participates in the creative and redeeming action of God in a special way.

Mary's exceptional conception as sinless affords her the choice to live fully for God. She was not programmed to be good, but rather, Mary did not carry the deep fear of interference and resistance against God that exists in all other human beings. The rest of the human race has the grace and possibility to work with and overcome fear and anger, but we must work to limit our desire for control and instead surrender to God's grace. We often do not

*See Mary, page 4*



#### Connie Fortunato's Magnificat – Music Camp International

When the Iron Curtain fell, it revealed the plight of Romanian children warehoused in orphanages. The Ceausescu regime had insisted that women have as many as children as possible, to provide soldiers for a huge army. Many of these children were abandoned and given no real love and very little food. As a music educator and the former music director of Twin Lakes Church in Aptos, California, Connie knew that music could restore these children to wholeness. At first the Romanian government wanted her to teach music only to the children of the leadership. Connie insisted on teaching the orphans and she prevailed.

Fourteen years later, Connie's ministry, Music Camp International, has grown, yet it still flies by a wing and many prayers. Children in Ukraine and Romania are given musical instruments and a week's instruction in playing and singing. The results are miraculous as the sound of sacred music returns to cathedrals and the hearts of children.

*See Music Camp, page 4*

For more features and articles,  
visit us on the web at:  
<http://digest.theologika.net>

#### Tres Palabras para Familias Contentas según el Papa Francisco

En su Audiencia General de Miércoles el 13 de mayo, el Papa Francisco dio un corto mensaje sobre tres palabras claves para asegurar la alegría y el bienestar de la familia. *Permiso, gracias, y perdón* son las palabras esenciales para mantener saludables las relaciones familiares.

El Santo Papa dijo que algunas veces en nuestra cultura esas expresiones son consideradas como señales de debilidad en vez de ser una declaración de respeto y cariño en nuestras relaciones familiares: características que forman la base de vivir nuestra fe. Sin esta fundación básica de respeto y cariño esas relaciones importantes se pueden romper, haciendo daño a todos.

Los conflictos y desacuerdos, aún los pleitos, son parte de cualquiera relación honesta, pero Papa Francisco nos aconseja hacer las paces antes de que se acabe el día.

La cortesía y el respeto también son importantes en nuestra plática pero además tienen que ser realizados en nuestros hechos y actitudes. Como ha dicho San Ignacio de Loyola, << El amor se manifiesta en hechos más que palabras.>> Estas tres palabras son hechas muy importantes. Más aún, pueden abrir la puerta a una mejor relación, aceptación mutua, y la respuesta amante necesarias para realizar un hogar feliz.



## ASK THEOLOGIKA

NOT SO COMMON KNOWLEDGE



Dear Theologika,

Why do Catholics worship the Virgin Mary?

Wondering

Dear Wondering,

This is a common misunderstanding of the devotion Catholics have for Mary the Mother of God. Catholics do not worship the Virgin Mary. Catholics, like other Christians, only worship the One God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. St. Mary is unique among all of the saints and for this reason we venerate (honor) her. According to Holy Scripture, Mary freely chose to be the mother of the savior and that is why we call her the Blessed Mother. Mary was God's choice to be the woman who would give birth to the truly divine and truly human man, Jesus of Nazareth.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (#969-972) tells us that Mary's importance is due to her relationship with God in the Divine work of salvation. Throughout her

Theologika Digest is published monthly on-line at <http://digest.theologika.net> and in a downloadable print edition.

Theologika.net offers a library of authoritative resources, a blog collection of reflections on religious experience, and Theologika Digest, a collection of articles and reviews of materials from across the Christian world.

Theologika.net is not an official Catholic publication. Nevertheless, the content and views we present are meant to be compatible with official Church teaching.

Editors:  
Randolfo R. Pozos, Ph.D.  
Kathleen Brewer de Pozos, Ph.D.

All rights reserved – May 2015

life Mary grappled with understanding God's promise in the midst of the life of her son Jesus. "Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." (Luke 2:19) This is why Catholics and other ancient churches see Mary as the model of faith and charity. She is the first disciple and the model for all of the rest of us, since she is completely human. We see in her the model of the complete acceptance of God's love and grace. As the mother of God, Mary is also the mother of all the faithful. She is the mother of the Church.

Mary prayed with the men and women in the upper room after her son's ascension and received once again the Holy Spirit with them. Her example of faithful prayer in the midst of a mother's concern for her son, and her anguish and grief at his public torture and death, is a model for all of us dealing with pain, suffering, and grief in our lives. The resurrection and ascension of her son was also mystifying for this Jewish woman who believed the promise of God brought to her by the Angel Gabriel and who freely accepted the Word of God made flesh within her by the Holy Spirit.

Mary has not ceased her prayer. Caught up with all of the saints in the glory of God, Mary has a special place in God's heart. As her children, we know that we can come to her and she can help us by her love and prayers to walk with her son on His journey of salvation for all of us.

Blessings be yours,

*Theologika*



## Three Words for Family Harmony from Pope Francis



On Wednesday May 13 at his General Audience in St Peter's square Pope Francis gave a short address on the three words that are key to family happiness

and well being. The three words in Spanish that are essential for healthy relationships are *permiso*, *gracias*, and *perdón*. In English they are phrases: "May I", "Thank you!", and "Forgive Me".

Sometimes in our culture these expressions are seen as a sign of weakness as opposed to a true statement of our respect and affection in our intimate relationships. Respect for the dignity of our spouses, children and other family members is central to living our faith. Without this underlying bedrock respect and affection, these key relationships can rupture and damage everyone in the process.

Conflicts and disagreements — even arguments — are part of any honest relationship, but Pope Francis encourages us to be reconciled with each other by the end of the day whenever possible.

Politeness, courtesy, and respect are important in our speech, and have to be accompanied by changed behavior. As St. Ignatius Loyola says, "Love is shown more in deeds than in words." These three expressions are deeds that open the door to improved behavior, mutual acceptance and loving response to challenges in happy families.



## Hispanic-Mozarabic Rite from Spain Celebrated

By Fr. David Jaspers



On May 16, 2015 the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was celebrated at St. Peter's Basilica according to the Hispanic-Mozarabic Rite for only the 4th time in history. Developed before the Moorish

conquest of Spain, the Mozarabic rite is as ancient as the memory of Christianity in Spain.

As the kings of northern Spain fought their way south during the *Reconquista* (Reconquest), they brought with them the liturgical books of the Roman Rite. When they arrived in Toledo, they found Catholics who had maintained their faith and liturgy during the 400 years of Islamic rule. While living under Islamic rule these Catholics had learned Arabic and adopted new fashions of clothing, but never lost their identity. They were dubbed, "Mixto-Arabs" or Mozárabes and the rich faith and liturgy that sustained them against persecutions and trials

### Image Credits:

*Hail Mary* – Franklin Fong, OFM  
*Connie Fortunato and children from Kiev* – Music Camp International  
*Madonna della Scalla* – Michelangelo  
*Dome of St. Peter's Basilica* – public domain. CC  
*Mozarabic Antiphony - 11th Century Folio from the Cathedral of León, Spain* Public Domain  
*Flames* – Giovanni Dallorto, Wiki Commons  
*Jesse Manibusan* – From promo video  
*Lily of the Valley* – clip art, i2clipart.com

then, still nourishes and inspires them and many others to this day.

This is the Prayer for Peace (*Ad Pacem*) for the Sixth Sunday of Easter from the Hispanic-Mozarabic Mass.

*Conserve in your peace, Lord, those whom you redeemed with the abundant out-pouring of your blood; free from scandal those for whom you hung upon the wood. Make worthy, through works of charity, those who, being guided by your grace, you adopted as sons and daughters, so that we who celebrate the victory of your resurrection, rising at the time of the Last Judgment, will be placed crowned at your right with the sheep.*

R/. Amen

*Grant this, Oh God, through the author of peace and love, our Lord Jesus Christ, with whom you are one lone and co-equal essence in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, reigning for ever and ever.*

R/. Amen.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Mary's Song of Praise: Magnificat**

My Soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their arrogance. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever.

## Looking Ahead



The Feast of the Nativity of John the Baptist is celebrated on June 24. In Europe, a combination of pre-Christian nature lore and

Christian faith underlies popular celebrations, many of which involve fires.

Celebrate with a bonfire (and marshmallows?) or a candle on the dinner table! To add a spiritual note, join in singing the *Benedictus*, the ancient song of praise from John's father, Zechariah.



Jesse Manibusan, singer, songwriter, entertainer, and liturgical musician, has posted a new promotional music video, "The Life You Live".

Jesse has taken the usual meaning of life as something that we live, something that is ours alone, and turned it on its head. "The Life You Live" is all about the life of the Risen Christ.

In this new work, Jesse echoes the theme of St. Paul in his address to the elite of Athens, "For in him, we live and move and have our being". (Acts 17:28)

Find the video online at <http://digest.theologika.net> or at Jesse's site: [www.jessemanibusan.com](http://www.jessemanibusan.com)



*Music Camp, Cont. from page 1*

The lowly are exalted and the future of all is brighter.

As Music Camp International's website explains,

“The healing gift of music has given hope and dignity to many who have previously been overlooked in a society that provides its resources for the ‘privileged’ and the ‘promising’. Many children have held and played instrument for the first time. Many have discovered their singing voice. All have experienced the joy of music in a positive and nurturing environment. All have participated in making beautiful music with the finest professionals in their community. And ALL have discovered that in blending their talent with other children—from diverse backgrounds and social status—they can achieve a life-changing experience that is not possible alone.”

In May 2014, Connie was named “Ambassador for Peace” —the only non-Ukrainian in history to have ever received this award – in recognition of her work with the children.

**Music Camp International:  
Developing Children, Training Teachers, and Strengthening The Global Community Through the Power of Music**

Tax deductible donations can be made at:  
[www.musiccampinternational.org](http://www.musiccampinternational.org)  
or by mail at:  
PO Box 66629  
Scotts Valley, CA 95067-6629



*Mary, Cont . from page 1*

choose right away to stop being resentful or angry. We often project onto others the responsibility for our own self-inflicted injuries. Mary had a clear vision of her place in life. She was born totally honest and prepared to grow. She chose to say “yes” over and over to these qualities, even when they brought suffering.

Mary was and is “full of grace.” In the spiritual relationship which she has with her son and the whole of creation, Christ’s grace pours through her as the first disciple to all of humanity. Mary mothers us (protects and strengthens us) if we let her. Catholicism understands all of humanity, living and dead, to be in spiritual solidarity, a mystical body. Because of this solidarity or communion, Mary can help us to have a readiness to commitment, trust even in unbearable loss, and unimaginable joy when we are united to her son.

Susan T. Mahan, PhD

A Puzzle for May


G	R	T	O	K	P	M	A	R	Y	L	U	M	G
O	W	J	M	O	Z	A	R	A	B	I	C	S	C
D	J	M	A	N	I	Y	K	L	I	Y	C	V	Z
Q	O	W	G	H	G	I	I	P	W	F	F	P	V
T	H	A	N	K	Y	O	U	L	P	R	I	T	E
R	N	S	I	N	I	J	P	L	K	E	R	M	N
E	T	U	F	O	R	G	I	V	E	M	E	I	E
S	P	A	I	N	O	P	Q	W	Z	A	S	D	R
F	G	J	C	H	W	E	B	V	C	X	Z	M	A
R	F	B	A	P	T	I	S	T	E	W	O	V	T
O	P	R	T	Q	W	O	R	S	H	I	P	Z	E

Find the words in bold type.

Mary’s song of praise is known as the **Magnificat**. Catholics **venerate Mary** and **worship only God**. Pope Francis reminds us that **May I, Thank you, and Forgive me** are important words for healthy families. The ancient form for celebrating Mass in **Spain** is known as the **Mozarabic rite**. People in Europe traditionally celebrate the birth of **John the Baptist** with **fires**.



Apply online now for classes in your diocese or on campus.  
Courses offered online and on site in five Catholic dioceses.  
Hispanic Ministry emphasis and scholarship funds available.

 Santa Clara University  
The Jesuit University in Silicon Valley

Graduate Program in Pastoral Ministries  
[www.scu.edu/pm](http://www.scu.edu/pm) · 408-554-4831  
[pastoralministries@scu.edu](mailto:pastoralministries@scu.edu)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Praying with Pope Francis**

General Intention: That, rejecting the culture of indifference, we may care for our neighbors who suffer, especially the sick and the poor.

Evangelization: That Mary's intercession may help Christians in secularized cultures be open to proclaiming Jesus.

For more features and articles, visit us on the web at:  
<http://digest.theologika.net>