

# At the School of the Incarnation with Mary, Mother of Jesus

7<sup>th</sup> « portal »

## Presentation

Little children running along beside their mothers who hold their hands are a familiar sight on school mornings.

In the Family of the Incarnation, Mary, the mother of Jesus, leads us also to the school of the Incarnation.

Father Baudouin has left us these words:

*How good it is to be led by Mary to Jesus  
and by Jesus to the Father and to the Holy Trinity.*

All his life was lived under the radiance of Mary.

*Fr. Baudouin*

He was born in Montaigu and he liked to recall that he was born on the feast of Our Lady of the Angels, a feast very much celebrated in Montaigu. He liked to emphasise that the name of Mary was added to his Christian name of Louis.

Mary was for him « his very holy Mother ».

During his time of exile in Spain with other French priests, some of them found that the devotion of the Spanish to Mary was exaggerated he replied :

*if they do not adore her they are not doing too much.*

On his return to France after five years of exile in Spain, and during his 'hidden' time in Sables d'Olonne, for the feast of the 15th August 1798 with a large number of the faithful he pronounced and signed a profession of faith to the glory of the Immaculate Conception and the Mother of God.

In 1805, he is already parish priest in Chavagnes and has always in mind the project for a society of « priests and of holy women to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem » destroyed by the revolution. He finds a seminary and with a few teachers forms a society of priests, to whom he gives the name:

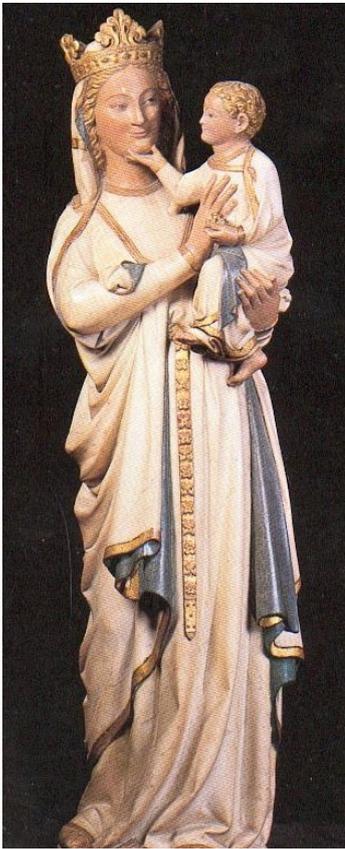
« Children of Mary ».

Whenever he speaks of Mary or writes about her he is filled with enthusiasm.

And so in a commentary on the Canticle of Canticles:

*(....) O my Mother, you are all beautiful, all holy, all pure ...  
Hail, full of grace!*





*Hail, blessed one!  
Hail, Queen of Angels!  
Hail, mistress of the heavens!  
Hail, treasury of the riches of Jesus!  
Hail, Mother of God!  
Mother of the Word Incarnate!  
Mother of the Redeemer!  
Mother of God, you are all beautiful, all holy!*

But he does not forget that Mary is one of us and forms part of our Church:

*She is of the Church: her title of Mother, of Nursing Mother, of Queen does not take from her the quality of member of the holy Church, she is part of our body.*

Father Baudouin appears to have lived a very special relationship of intimacy with Mary, as is witnessed by a writing dated 20 January 1819 where he makes a vow to support his sufferings. Among the 42 sufferings that he lists, there is this one which never fails to surprise us:

*The indifference and coldness of the loving and tender Mother. You who are so tender, you were very severe with me ... The Divinity has been severe with you !*

Among his last words before his death, in testimony:

*« What comforts me, he said on his bed of suffering, is that I have always placed you under the protection of the blessed Virgin.  
Ah ! my children Mary is my hope, whoever you may be, I have given you to her ; I give you again and forever to this tender Mother.  
O Mary I commend my children into your hands; I give them to you ; they are yours, do not forsake them Protect them, bless them !  
Yes, my children, you belong to Mary, do not forget it ; You belong to Mary ; love her !  
She is your Mother for time and for eternity »*

Contemplation of the Mystery of the Incarnation, leads us also to contemplate Mary, Mother of the human race.

To live the Incarnation, is to plough the land continually, so that like Mary we may be available to love and adore Jesus made flesh in me and in the other person and this is a daily exercise...

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*A Treasure in Common on Mary*

With Christ, by him and in him, we live our mission  
like Mary of Nazareth,  
Mary of the Magnificat,  
Mary of Bethlehem,  
Mary of Cana,  
Mary of the Cross.

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We become « disciples at the school of the Incarnation »

- \* with a Master "the Word Incarnate our Lord and Master "
- \* with a Mistress, "Mary, our good Mother and Mistress"
- \* under the guidance of LMB

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**The Spirituality of the Incarnation**

A hidden Spirit, in sincere humility, which moves us to live freely,  
to discover whatever « seed of the Word » is in each person,  
keeping a special devotion to the Eucharist and to the Virgin Mary.

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**In the treasury of the Ursulines of Jesus (Book of Life)**

Mary, servant of the Lord in total availability  
Listened to the Word of God  
and revealed it by her whole life.  
Again today she repeats these words:  
« Do whatever he tells you. » n°12



It is Mary that leads us to Jesus.

« She treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. »  
In her, we enter more deeply into the mysteries of the life of Jesus,  
especially through the rosary.

With Mary, we surrender our whole life to the Word  
so that it may become flesh in us  
And be given to the world. No.35

**In the treasury of the FMI (Constitutions)**

The Word was ...hidden in the womb of the Blessed Mother.

Like Mary, we are consecrated so that the Word is incarnated in our life and that it is offered to all people in a continuous evangelisation.

It is through Mary that we let ourselves be led to Jesus and by Jesus to the Father or the Holy Trinity. n° 9

Discover Mary throughout the Gospel, « mustard seeds »  
to be masticated slowly...  
- stay with Mary in Nazareth ... in the family with

Joseph and Jesus ...

- accompany her in her visit to her cousin Elisabeth, in Cana...
- stay close to her standing at the foot of the cross.

Advice of Father Baudouin to his nephew,

*It is an excellent practise to say the rosary  
to help one relax while going for a walk.*

(letter 14th June 1814)

A proposition :

*Go each day, really go and not just superficially to the Immaculate Heart of our dear  
mother Mary, Mother of God, it is the secret to the door of the heart of Jesus.  
It is there that we are converted, that we cry, that we are washed  
so that we can then enter the Holy of Holies.*

*Word of God*



(letter 1st March 1818)

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*Pratise*

