

At Calvary, everything seems finished.

The sky darkens.
The earth trembles.
The disciples scatter.

The Son of God hangs nailed to the Cross.

And beneath that Cross stands His Mother.

Not screaming.
Not collapsing.
Standing.

The Gospel today is one of the most solemn moments in all Scripture.

Jesus looks down from the Cross and says: **“Woman, behold your son.”**

Then to St John: **“Behold your mother.”**

And from that hour, the beloved disciple took her into his home.

The Church has always understood this moment as far more than Jesus simply arranging care for His Mother.

At the very hour Christ redeems the world, Mary becomes Mother not only of John, but of all the disciples of Christ.

Mother of the Church.

And the first reading explains why.

After the Fall, after sin enters the world, God speaks to the serpent:

“I will put enmity between you and the woman.”

The woman first appears in Genesis.

And now, at the Cross, she appears again.

The new Eve standing beside the new Adam.

The first Eve stood beside Adam as sin entered the world.

Mary stands beside Christ as salvation enters the world.

Eve listened to the fallen angel and death began.

Mary listened to Gabriel and life Himself entered the world.

And notice something profound.

Jesus calls her: **“Woman.”**

Not because He is distancing Himself from her.

But because He is revealing who she truly is.

The Woman promised in Genesis.

The Woman whose offspring crushes the serpent.

The Mother of all who live in grace.

And this matters because Christianity is not merely an idea or philosophy.

The Son of God truly took flesh from Mary.

And at the Cross He does not leave His disciples as orphans.

He gives them a mother.

The Church is not an organisation held together by policies alone.

She is a family born from the wounded side of Christ.

That is why today’s Gospel ends with blood and water flowing from His side.

The Fathers of the Church saw there the birth of the sacraments:

- Baptism
- Eucharist
- the life of the Church itself

Just as Eve came from the side of Adam, the Church comes from the side of Christ.

And Mary stands there as Mother while the Church is born.

The modern world desperately needs this feast.

Because modern people are spiritually orphaned.

Many have information but no wisdom.
Noise but no peace.
Endless connection but deep loneliness.

And many live without any sense of spiritual family at all.

But Christ did not save us merely as isolated individuals.

He gathers us into His Body.

Into His Church.

And He gives us His Mother.

Catholics should never be embarrassed about loving Our Lady.

At the Cross, Jesus Himself gives her to us.

And every generation of saints has understood this instinctively.

When Catholics stop loving Mary deeply, something usually weakens in the spiritual life.

Because Mary always leads souls toward Jesus.

Never toward herself.

At Cana she says: **“Do whatever He tells you.”**

At Lourdes, Fatima, Guadalupe, always the same message:
repentance, prayer, conversion, fidelity to Christ.

A true devotion to Mary never replaces Christ.

It brings souls closer to Him.

And perhaps today we should ask honestly:

Do we really live as children of Mary?

Do we turn to her in temptation?

Do we ask her help in suffering?

Do we entrust our families to her?

Do we pray the Rosary seriously?

Because the saints constantly testify that Mary's intercession is powerful.

Not magic.

Maternal.

A mother fighting for her children.

And perhaps nowhere is this needed more than in family life today.

So many homes wounded.

So many children anxious.

So many parents exhausted.

So many people carrying hidden grief.

And standing beneath the Cross, Mary understands suffering.

Not theoretically.

Personally.

She watched her Son die.

And yet she remained faithful.

That is why Catholics instinctively run to her in sorrow.

Because she knows what it is to stand in darkness and still trust God.

But today's feast is not sentimental.

It is victorious.

Because the Cross is not defeat.

Christ reigns precisely from the Cross.

The serpent is crushed there.

Sin is conquered there.

Death begins to die there.

And Mary stands there not as a helpless spectator, but as the faithful Mother of the redeemed.

And now she continues her motherhood within the Church.

Quietly forming saints.

Quietly leading souls back to Confession.

Quietly bringing wandering children home again.

Quietly teaching hearts to love Christ.

That is why every renewal in the Church has always had Marian roots.

Because where Mary is welcomed, Christ is welcomed deeply.

And perhaps today, on this feast of Mary Mother of the Church, we should do something very simple.

Entrust ourselves to her again.

Our parish.

Our families.

Our children.

Our wounded hearts.

Our future.

Because at the Cross, Jesus did not merely give us redemption.

He gave us a mother.

And the disciple whom Jesus loved took her into his home.

The Church must do the same still.