

# MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF THE POOR

NEWSLETTER  
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NUMBER 1



## The Divine Maternity: The First Marian Dogma

*“Mary, the Mother of God,  
shows us the way to love and  
Divine Mercy”*

THE CHARISM OF THE  
MSP

*The Eucharist*

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*At the closing of 2024. Saint Maria  
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*At the closing of 2024. Saints  
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## THE DIVINE MATERNITY: THE FIRST MARIAN DOGMA

“MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD, SHOWS US THE WAY TO LOVE AND DIVINE MERCY”



In 431 A.D., the third Council of the Church took place in Ephesus. In the period preceding the Council, Nestorius, Archbishop of Constantinople, taught that Mary was only the mother of the person of Christ, Christotokos. The Council rejected this notion and declared Mary the Theotokos, the Mother of God. Although Mary gave birth to the humanity of Christ (human nature), this humanity rests on the unique Person of Christ, that is, on the Divine Person. The Catechism of the Catholic Church expresses it thus: Christ's humanity has no other subject than the divine person of the Son of God, who assumed it and made it his own, from his conception. For this reason the Council of Ephesus proclaimed in 431 that Mary truly became the Mother of God by the human conception of the Son of God in her womb: "Mother of God, not that the nature of the Word or his divinity received the beginning of its existence from the holy Virgin, but that, since the holy body, animated by a rational soul, which the Word of God united to himself according to the hypostasis, was born from her, the Word is said to be born according to the flesh." (DS 251). (cf. CCC 466)

Immediately after celebrating Christmas, the Church concludes the octave by honoring Mary under her greatest title, that of Mother of God. The Solemnity of Holy Mary, Mother of God is the first Marian Feast to appear in the Western Church, its celebration having begun in Rome around the 6th century.



The antiquity of the Marian celebration is confirmed by the paintings with the name of Mary, Mother of God (Theotokos) which have been found in the catacombs in Rome. The saints, from the earliest centuries, have taught us devotion to this invocation of the Virgin as Mother of God.

Therefore, we must encourage them to honor and venerate her as our Most Holy Mother, remembering that this beautiful solemnity is a precept which indicates that attendance is obligatory for every faithful Catholic. (cf. CCL 1246) Therefore, let us not fail to attend this celebration, but let us go not only out of duty, but because we wish to love our Mother, who is, in turn, the Mother of God.

Let us not forget that: "In no way do we honor Jesus more than when we honor His Mother, and when we honor her simply and solely to honor Him, the gesture is all the more perfect. We turn to her with the sole purpose of reaching the one we seek: Jesus, her Son." - St. Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort (Treatise on True Devotion to Mary)



*"Never tire of taking in orphaned and abandoned children. It is always Jesus Who knocks on our door."*

FR. GIOVANNI SALERNO



# THE CHARISM OF THE MSP

## *The Eucharist*

We are familiar with the suggestive images of the two tables that the Imitation of Christ reserves for the theme of the Eucharist and the Word of God: "One is the table of the Holy Altar, with the consecrated bread that has become the precious Body of Christ. The second is the table of the Divine Law, compendium of holy doctrine, the teacher who teaches the true faith and leads us safely to...the Holy of Holies" (Book IV, Chapter 11).

These two tables are prepared for the entire community of Christ's faithful in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist which, as the Second Vatican Council teaches us, "is the source and summit of all evangelization" (Decree *Presbiterorum Ordinis* on the Mystery and Life of Priests, no. 5). And again: "No Christian community, however, is built up unless it has its basis and center in the celebration of the most Holy Eucharist; from this, therefore, all education to the spirit of community must take its origin. This celebration, if it is to be genuine and complete, should lead to various works of charity and mutual help, as well as to missionary activity and to different forms of Christian witness." (ibid., no. 6)

The Servants of the Poor, who fully subscribe to this teaching of the Ecumenical Council, are convinced that the lack of material bread on the tables of millions of our brothers is a consequence of the lack of Eucharistic Bread in so many regions of our world, torn apart by selfishness and discord.

For this reason, the Servants of the Poor aspire with all their effort to multiply the presence of Christ in the Eucharist among the poorest, who are the great majority of humanity, increasing even in the most remote places the tables of sacrifice and Eucharistic banquets and, at the same time, transforming themselves into broken bread for the most needy. Therefore, their participation in the Eucharist has no meaning if they do not become the Eucharist for others.

(To be continued)

***Fr. Giovanni Salerno***



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# NEWS FROM OUR HOUSES

## *At the closing of 2024. Saint Maria Goretti School*

On December 20, the Saint Maria Goretti School ended the 2024 school year.

This great event began with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. It was a joyful day for everyone, for the students, the teachers, the "aunts" (missionary wives), and the Sisters, for all the fruits that were harvested throughout this school year.

This opportunity was taken to award prizes to the students who had won various competitions during the year and, above all, to celebrate those who received recognition for academic merit and values.

May God abundantly bless all the benefactors who make our service among the poor possible.

## *At the closing of 2024. Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto School*

On December 23, the Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto boys' school celebrated the end of its school year with an exciting day that began with Holy Mass, a time for reflection and gratitude shared by students, families, and teachers.

The program included the presentation of awards to outstanding students, Christmas carols that filled the air with Christmas joy, and the dance of "Los Caporales," highlighting the cultural talent of the institution.

The ceremony culminated with the emotional farewell of the 2024 class who ended their school years by thanking the educational community for their formation in values and faith.

May this ending be a new beginning full of hope and challenges.







# S.O.S

## TO YOUNG PEOPLE

If you are a young person or a married couple, or if you desire to form a support group in your country or to be an oblate, God is calling you. Don't ignore the call and say "yes" to Christ.

contact us!



# MISSIONARY COMMITMENT OF THE MONTH

GO AHEAD! BE PART OF THE MSP  
WITH YOUR MISSIONARY  
COMMITMENT



**“In January I will focus on renewing my faith, seeking to strengthen my relationship with God at the beginning of this new year.”**



# WE NEED YOUR PRAYERS

THE MOST IMPORTANT HELP FOR THE MISSIONARIES IS YOUR PRAYERS

REGISTER NOW



IF YOU WISH YOU MAY HELP US MATERIALLY ALSO

DONATE



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