



The Parish Voice

St. Mary's Assyrian Chaldean Catholic Church of San Jose . 109 North First Street, Campbell, CA 95008
Year XX, No. 5 May 2008

Mary Month - Why May?

The month of May is traditionally dedicated to Mary in many cultures. May is considered the season of the beginning of new life. Already in Greek culture, May was dedicated to Artemis, the goddess of fecundity. In Roman culture, May was dedicated to Flora, the goddess of bloom, of blossoms. The Romans celebrated *ludi florales* (literally: floral games) at the end of April, asking the intercession of Flora for all that blooms. This is also related to the medieval practice of expelling winter. May 1 was considered the beginning of growth.

At one time, the custom of having a Mary-month was independent from the month of May as such:

- A very old tradition known as *Tricesimum* (or: Thirty Day Devotion to Mary; also called Lady Month) was originally held from August 15 - September 14. The exact dates or origin of this devotion are unknown, but the custom is still practiced here and there.
- Mary Month, as yet unrelated to a specific period, has been known since baroque times (Sources: Johannes Nadas; Theophilus Marianus, 1664; J. X. Jacolet, *Mensis Marianus*, 1724). This devotion was comprised of about thirty spiritual exercises in honor of Mary.

Since medieval times, we have had the combination between Mary and the month of May. Among the earliest witnesses are: Alphonsus X, "el sabio," King of Castille, Spain (1221-1284) with his "Cantigas de Santa



Maria" ("Ben venna Mayo"). Here and elsewhere, both Mary and the month of May are greeted, welcomed and celebrated on specific days in May. Later, the whole month of May became the month of Mary. On each day of this month, special devotions to Mary were organized. This custom originated in Italy (for example: Ferrara, 1784). It was spread widely during the nineteenth century, a century well known for its monthly devotions (Heart of Jesus in June; Rosary in October).

In our parish we will have the honoring of the Icon of Our Lady of Perpetual help every Sunday after the Mass. We ask all our parishioners to come first to attend the Holy Mass as it is required by the Third Commandment of God, "Remember to keep Holy the Sabbath Day", and then also to show a special love to our Blessed Mother.

The Virgin Mary was present in the first day in which the Church was born on Pentecost Day, and she will continue to be in the Church until the Second coming of Jesus Christ in His Glory. We must love her and take her as best example for our Christian life. One of the best way to show our love for her is to have her icon in our homes and by asking her prayers for us.

Mother's Day

On Sunday, May 11, 2008 we celebrate the mass for the intention of all the mothers of our church, living and dead. Come and pray for your mother who gave you life and worked hard to raise you. "Who honors his mother is like collectors of tresurs"(Elcclesiasticus 3:40).

After the mass we will have tea, coffee and cakes at the hall of our church. Come, bring your mother, and let us celebrate together.

Mother's Day Prayer



I love you, Mom. I love your aliveness, your joy in living, your understanding, your giving. And what I love best of all is that you love me. God of all Mothers, thank you for my mom!

- by *Gaynell Bordes Cronin*
 From the book *Friend Jesus:
 Prayers for Children*

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



We will have the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist every First Thursday of the month from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. We encourage all our parishioners to come and adore the blessed Sacrament in prayer and meditation for one hour. It is one of the best devotion the Holy Eucharist (*Qurbana*) The next adoration will take place on Thursday, June 5, 2008 from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Parish News And Events

Catholic Radio

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Church Committee Election

On Sunday, May 18, 2008 we will have the election for the new church committee. This election takes place in our parish every two years. If you would like to be candidate for this election, please call Rev. Yoshia Sana and give him your name before May 11, 2008.

The conditions to be accepted as candidate are:

- To be member of our parish.
- To attend the Holy Mass every Sunday and days of Obligations.
- To be in good stand with the teaching of the Catholic Church.
- To be 21 years or older (male or female).

The church committee in the Catholic Church is not to be leader of the church, but to assist the Pastor in fulfilling his ministry to the parish. It is always presided over by the Pastor. It is purely consultative in nature and has no legislative or decision-making power of its own.

We thank all the members of the Parish Committee for the good service they have done in last two years to our parish. May the Lord bless them all.



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