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A Discourse of Pope John Paul II at Fatima

A particular manifestation of Mary's motherhood about men are the places, where she meets with them, the houses in which she lives; houses in which resides the special presence of the Mother. These are the Marian Shrines. It seems that even there, as in many other Marian shrines around the world, with a particular strength, these words resonate authenticity of today's liturgy: "You great pride of our people". These words resonate in Fatima as well as a special echo not only of the Portuguese nation, but also of many other nations and peoples that are on the globe: they are indeed the echo of the contemporary experience of all mankind, of all the human family.

Since the time when Jesus, dying on the cross, said to John: "Behold your Mother", since the time when "the disciple took her into his home," the mystery of Mary's spiritual motherhood had its fulfillment in history with an amplitude without boundaries. Motherhood means concern for her son's life. Now, if Mary is the mother of all people, her concern for human life is universal in scope. The eagerness of a mother embraces the whole person. Mary's motherhood has its beginning in her maternal care for Christ. She has accepted in Christ under the cross John, and in him, she accepted every person and the whole person. Mary embraces everyone with a special concern in the Holy Spirit.

The spiritual motherhood of Mary is therefore participation in the power of the Holy Spirit, the One who "gives life." It is with the humble service of the one who says of herself: "Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord" (*Lk*1:38). In the light of the mystery of Mary's spiritual motherhood, let us understand the extraordinary message, which began to resonate in the world by Fatima since May 13, 1917 and lasted for five months until October 13 of the same year. If the Church has embraced the message of Fatima it is mainly because it contains a truth and a call, which in their essential content is the truth and the call of the Gospel itself.

"Repent (repent) and believe in the Gospel" (*Mk*1:15), these are the first words of the Messiah addressed to humanity. The message of Fatima is in its core a call to conversion and penance, as in the Gospel. This call was issued at the beginning of the twentieth century, and, therefore, in this century has been particularly addressed. The Lady of the message seems to read with special insight the "signs of the times", the signs of our time.

The call to repentance is maternal and at the same time, strong and determined. The love that "rejoices in the truth" (*1 Cor*13:6), knows how to be outspoken and determined. The call to repentance is joined, as always, with the call to prayer. In accordance with the tradition of many centuries, the Lady of Fatima message indicates the "Rosary", which can rightly be called "the prayer of Mary", in which she feels particularly united with us. She herself prays with us.

When Jesus said on the cross: "Woman, behold your son"(*Jn*19:26) - in a new way he opened up the heart of his Mother, the Immaculate Heart, and revealed a new dimension of love and scope of the new love, to which she was called in the Holy Spirit with the power of the sacrifice of the Cross. In the words of Fatima we seem to find this dimension of maternal love, which extends all the way of man to God. The solicitude of the Mother of the Savior is a concern for the work of salvation: the work of her Son. Can the Mother, who with all the power of her love, which fosters in the Holy Spirit and desires the salvation of every person, keep quiet about what undermines the very foundations of this salvation? No, she can not!

This message is addressed to every person. The love of the Mother of the Savior goes everywhere. The object of her care are all people of our time, along with their societies, nations and peoples. The companies threatened by apostasy, threatened by moral degradation. The collapse of morality brings with it the collapse of society.

Christ said on the Cross: "Woman, behold, your son."With those words there opened in a new way, the Heart of His Mother. Soon after, the spear of the Roman soldier pierced the side of Christ. That pierced heart has become the sign of the redemption accomplished through death by the Lamb of God. The Immaculate Heart of Mary, opened by the word: "Woman, behold your son", meets spiritually with the Heart of the Son opened by the soldier's lance. Mary's Heart was opened by the same love for the mortals and for the world, with which Christ has loved the human and the world, offering Himself on the Cross for them.

To consecrate the world to the Immaculate Heart of the Mother means returning beneath the Cross of her Son. More it means consecrating this world to the pierced Heart of the Savior, bringing the very source of his redemption. Redemption is always greater than the sin of man and the "sin of the world."The power of the Redemption infinitely surpasses the whole range of evil that is in mortals and in the world. The Heart of the Mother is aware of this, as no one else in the whole universe, visible and invisible. She calls not only for conversion; call to get help from her mother, to return to the source of the Redemption.

The Mother of Christ calls us and invites us to join the Church of the living God in the consecration of the world, this reliance by which the world, humanity, nations, all people are offered to the Eternal Father with power of Christ's redemption. They are offered in the pierced Heart of the Redeemer on the Cross. The Mother of the Redeemer calls us, invites us and helps us to unite ourselves with the consecration, to this dedication of the world. They are offered as close as possible to the Heart of Christ pierced on the Cross. The appeal of the Lady of Fatima is so deeply rooted in the Gospel and in the whole of tradition that the Church feels committed by this message. Yes, we can truly say: "Blessed are you, daughter, in front of the Most High God above all women on earth! .Really! You are blessed! Yes, here and throughout the Church, in the heart of every man and in the whole world be blessed Mary, our sweet Mother!

