

Dear Members of Sacred Heart Parish,

On this first day of May, I joyfully recall our family at home many years ago kneeling down in our parlor resting our hands on the sofa and chair cushions praying the Rosary. I also remember all the students of our Parish School walking in solemn procession to the Prayer Garden where the Blessed Mother would be crowned. Our singing and our prayer could be heard through the neighboring streets. Isn't it a blessing to be given the entire month of May to contemplate the beautiful example of Mary, the Blessed Virgin and Mother of God?

Pope Paul VI wrote on April 29, 1965: "The month of May is almost here, a month which the piety of the faithful has long dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God. Our heart rejoices at the thought of the moving tribute of faith and love which will soon be paid to the Queen of Heaven in every corner of the earth. For this is the month during which Christians, in their churches and their homes, offer the Virgin Mother more fervent and loving acts of homage and veneration; and it is the month in which a greater abundance of God's merciful gifts comes down to us from our Mother's throne."

From Mary we learn humble obedience to the will of the Father, trusting acceptance of the wonderful plan of her Son, and gratitude and praise as the Holy Spirit comes upon us causing each of us to respond like Mary: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior."

Let us lovingly and patiently journey with her through the mysteries of the Rosary, pondering in quiet prayer the profound love for her Son that did not waiver through His Life, Death and Resurrection and His saving love for all of us. Let us bring to her the rarest and fairest flowers of our dedication and devotion to crown her Queen of Heaven and Earth who will always lead us to Jesus, her Son and our Savior.

"Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ."

Ad Jesum Per Mariam,

*Father John*