



Fr. Matt's Musings

August 11, 2017

Mary, the Virgin Mother of God

Today, I passed by Fr. Lou Fiorelli's office and mentioned that I was still looking for a theme for this week's musing. He said that next Tuesday is the Feast of the Assumption, so Mary seems like a good theme. The title of this musing is an ancient title for Mary and is the name of a reflection in Kathleen Norris' book *Amazing Grace*. In that reflection, she speaks of the dissonance she experienced when Mary was described as both virgin and mother:

"She seemed to set an impossible standard for any woman. But this was narrow-minded on my part. What Mary does is to show me how I indeed can be both virgin and mother. Virgin to the extent that I remain "one-in-myself," able to come to things with newness of heart; mother to the extent that I forget myself in the nurture and service of others, embracing the ripeness of maturity that this requires. This Mary is a gender-bender; she could do the same for any man. (p. 122)

Virgin and mother, prayerful and loving, reflective and service oriented, our interior prayer and reflection give purpose and direction to our loving, generous deeds, just as our love gives flesh and bone life to our prayer and reflection. St. Francis de Sales tells us that the duty of every Christian is to give birth to Christ in our lives by imitating His words and deeds in our daily living. May Mary's pondering, loving, and generosity inspire our life of discipleship.

Live Jesus!

Fr. Matt

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