



Day 5: Redeemed

Jesus, the Redeemer

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.” Isaiah 43:1

One of St. John Paul II’s favorite titles of Jesus was “The Redeemer of Man.” The title of redeemer denotes a figure who saves and liberates - one who offers his life for the sake of freedom for those in bondage. Sonship, defining man’s deepest identity in relationship with the Father, was shattered because of the sin of Adam and Eve. There was a rupture in the core relationship of man’s heart, separating him from communion with the Trinity. Because of man’s poverty and limitations, man cannot bridge the gap of sin by himself. Left to ourselves, we remain orphaned sons. That is why in the Father’s perfect plan of salvation, He sends His own Son as the Redeemer of Man, as the true Redeemer of all sons. By His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus redeemed our own sonship and transformed it from something broken to something whole and life-giving. Jesus, the Son of God, is the true Redeemer of our sonship.

Mary, Mother of the Redeemer

Mary, as the Mother of Jesus, is given a ‘co-mission’ with her ‘Redeemer Son,’ as St. John Paul II also called her the “Mother of the Redeemer.” In God’s wonderful plan of salvation, He did not choose to save the world merely by Himself but through humanity, revealing the depths of His love for us and His desire to ‘redeem’ every part of our brokenness. Mary cooperated with the redeeming plan of the Father through her role as mother. Mary took part in Christ’s mission by creating a sacred space of love and communion around Him. Jesus, the Redeemer of Man, was born into a real family and community, and this was the chosen place where Jesus would begin to redeem broken humanity. Mary and Joseph’s vocation as mother and father played a significant role in providing love and support so Jesus could live His mission to the full.

St. Juan Diego and Us

By baptism you were redeemed. If you fall, you have the Sacrament of reconciliation to restore what was broken. St. Juan Diego, too, was redeemed by Christ. The history of his country, of his family ancestry is messy—just like our own history. Idolatry, often involving rituals of human sacrifice, filled the spiritual landscape of the Aztec people. It is significant and encouraging for us to know that God chose and willed to break into our history, our

culture, and our lives, and – as evidenced here in the case of St. Juan Diego - he is not “put off” or repelled by our mess. Mary’s words to Juan Diego and to the people of his time stand true for us as well, “I am honored to be your compassionate mother, yours and that of all the people that live together in this land...”(*Nican Mopohua*, 30) You can stand on these words and know that God is not disgusted with you or far away from you because of your story, because of your sin, or because of your family situation. Believe, dear brother, that in Baptism and Reconciliation you are redeemed, and that the Mother of the Redeemer is here to be a place of refuge and strength for you on your journey.

Prayer

O Jesus, we adore You, we love You, and we thank You for the gift of Your presence. You are the beloved Son of the Father and the Redeemer of Man, the only Son of God who has come to save, rescue, and liberate us. We ask You now to hear this prayer.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of God and Mother of us, draw us close to your heart. You are the Mother of the Redeemer and thus the mother of our own redemption as sons of the Father. Please usher in this sacred time of redemption, conversion, and transformation. Please come and fill us with your love.

Amen.

After reading today’s reflection, [pray the Litany of Restoration of Sonship](#).