

# Bishop Cotta's Reflection of the Month

## May- Vocation of Motherhood

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Traditionally, with the arrival of the month of May, our attention is drawn to our devotion to the Blessed Mother. In a special way, during the month of May, we also acknowledge the popular day of Mother's Day. On that day, we give thanks to God for the gift our mothers and for the "vocation of motherhood."

Along with giving thanks to God for our mothers, we give thanks to the Mother that was given to us by Jesus at the foot of his cross on Good Friday. On that day, we were directed by the Crucified Lord to "behold" our Mother and to "take her into our homes." What a precious treasure Jesus gave us as he emptied himself, even to the degree of emptying himself of the last remaining means of consolation for him, his Beloved Mother. May she always be welcomed in our homes, the "domestic church."

There are several ways that we can renew our relationship with Our Lady during the month of May: praying the Rosary; celebrating special masses; or organizing processions and May Crownings. We can honor her for graciously guiding us to the Eucharist. During this month of May, let us be reminded that she is recognized under a special title: "Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament."

It is she who leads us to Our Eucharistic Lord. May 13 is the Feast of Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament. It was St. Peter Julian Eymard who, in May 1868, honored Our Lady with this title to acknowledge her relationship with her Son in the Eucharist and to encourage our devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

On another note, it is not a coincidence that God sent the Blessed Virgin to the "Cova da Iria" near the village of Fatima in 1917 on the 13th of May. On that special day the Three Shepherd Children were privileged to witness the Apparitions of Our Lady of the Rosary and to receive God's "message from Heaven." It was an important and urgent call to turn away from sin by way of praying the Rosary and offering penance in reparation for sin and for the conversion of "poor sinners." Also, there was the underlying and fundamental message of love and devotion to the Holy Eucharist, the Most Blessed Sacrament.

As we journey prayerfully through this blessed month of May, let us daily embrace Our Mother Mary and her Immaculate Heart into our lives. May she, Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament - Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary - lead us to Jesus in the Eucharist.

My friends, as we approach the "13th day," below is a prayer that can be used for the Novena to Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament. May we, the people of this Diocese, a diocese named after the Blessed Sacrament, acknowledge and celebrate, in a special way, this feast by which Our Lady offers to each of us - the Blessed Sacrament - El Santisimo Sacramento - her Son, Jesus!

Let us pray:

"Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament, I see you in Bethlehem lovingly pressing to your heart your Child, your God, the future Eucharistic Christ. I see you offering Him to the Heavenly Father in the Temple for our salvation. That very same Christ is mine in the Holy Eucharist when I look upon Him as Victim on our altars, when I kneel before Him as my Friend in the Tabernacle; when I receive Him into my soul as my Guest in Holy Communion. He is all mine - and all because you gave your consent to become His Mother." (Novena May 4-12; Feast May 13 - Rev. Lawrence G. Lovasik, S.V.D.)

Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament, pray for us.