



"Marian Reflections"

-- Sr. Joseph Andrew Bogdanowicz, OP

Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist ~ Ann Arbor, MI. www.sistersofmary.org

"The most important person on earth is a mother. She can not claim the honor of having built Notre Dame Cathedral. She need not. She has built something more magnificent than any cathedral-- a dwelling for an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby's body. The Angels have not been blessed with such a grace. They can not share in God's creative miracle to bring new saints to Heaven. Only a human mother can. Mothers are closer to God the Creator than any other creature. God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of Creation. What on God's good earth is more glorious than this... to be a mother?" *Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty*

"The soul of woman must be expansive and open to all human beings, it must be quiet so that no small weak flame will be extinguished by stormy winds; warm so as not to benumb fragile buds, clear, so that no vermin will settle in dark comers and recesses; self-contained so that no invasion from without can imperil the inner life; empty of itself, in order that extraneous life may have room in it; finally, mistress of itself and also of its body, so that the entire person is readily at the disposal of every call." *St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross*

The Eucharist has the taste and the aroma of the Blessed Virgin Mary. *Pope John Paul 11 the Great Corpus Christi 1983*

On the liturgical feast of the Annunciation, as if returning to the source of the mystery of faith, I went and knelt in the grotto of the Annunciation in Nazareth. Here, in the womb of Mary, the 'Word' was made flesh and came to live among us' (**Jn.1:14**) Reflecting on the Virgin's fiat, it is possible to hear, in adoring silence, the 'yes' full of love of God and men, the 'amen' of the eternal Son, that opened to every man the way to salvation. There, in the reciprocal self- giving of Christ and Mary, are the hinges of every 'holy door'. There, where God was made man, humanity found again its dignity and highest vocation. *Pope John Paul the Great*

"Perhaps more than men, women acknowledge the person, because they see persons with their hearts. They see them independently of various ideological or political systems. They see others in their greatness and limitations; they try to go out to them and help them. In this way the basic plan of the Creator takes flesh in the history of humanity and there is constantly revealed, in the variety of vocations, that *beauty* not merely physical, but above all spiritual -- which God bestowed from the very beginning on all, and in a particular way on women." (*Letter to Women*, 1995 -- before the opening of the Fourth World Conference of Women in Beijing)