

# LEGION OF MARY

## SENATUS OF NEW ZEALAND NEWSLETTER



· MAY ·

· 2023 ·

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Spiritual Director:  
Rev. Fr. Andrew Matthew

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### *May - Month of Mother Mary*

May is widely celebrated as the Month of Mother Mary, a time when devout Catholics and Christians around the world honor and pay homage to the blessed Virgin Mary. Throughout this sacred month, various religious ceremonies, devotions, and processions take place to express love, reverence, and gratitude towards the Mother of Jesus. The faithful gather in churches, shrines, and homes to offer prayers, recite the Holy Rosary, and engage in acts of piety, seeking Mary's intercession and seeking her guidance in their lives. May is a time when believers reflect upon Mary's exemplary qualities of faith, humility, and selfless love, drawing inspiration from her life and teachings. The Month of Mother Mary serves as a powerful reminder of her role as the spiritual mother to all, a symbol of compassion, and an everlasting source of hope and solace for those in need.

## **ALLOCUTIO: SUFFERING WITH SPIRITUAL JOY**

You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy.” (Jn. 16:20)

Most people try to avoid suffering, and when it cannot be avoided it is received with sadness. But that is not the case with the saints. They see a spiritual value in suffering, that brings them joy.

The virtues of faith and hope are needed when we suffer. If we turn to God He will give us hope, in our suffering. The virtue of hope is the strength of soul to see past..., present sorrows, to the sure promise of eternal happiness in heaven. This can give us joy in our suffering.

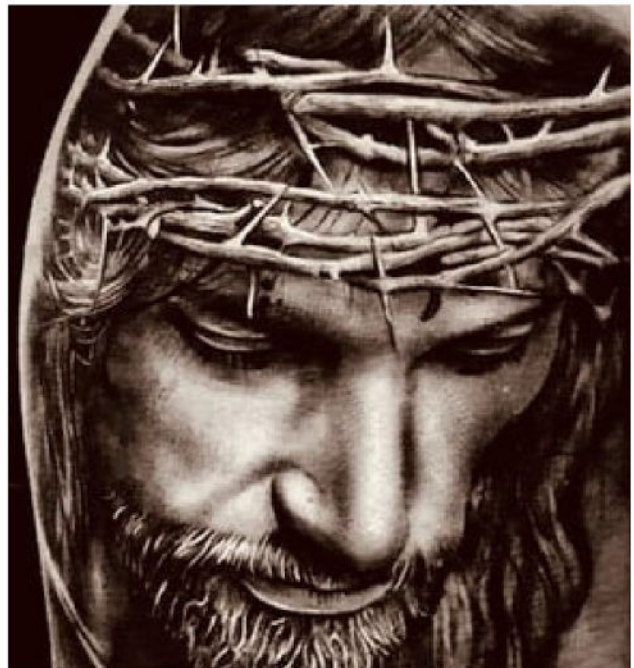
As legionnaires we often suffer in our apostolic work so therefore, it is important to have a clear understanding of the value of suffering.

Offered to God our suffering can be life changing for ourselves, and for others. Jesus taught us this lesson by His redemptive suffering. He suffered for love of us.

Our sufferings, when joined together with the suffering of Our Lord, can become “life giving” to others. This is called redemptive suffering. St Paul mentioned this type of suffering when he wrote; “I Paul, am made a minister who now rejoice in my sufferings for you...” Col. 1:24

Another common phrase is “the blood of martyrs, is the seeds of Christians.”

Most theologians believe that Jesus had a deep spiritual joy while enduring his passion.



This spiritual joy is depicted very well in the movie, *The Passion of the Christ*, when Jesus says to His Mother, “See Mother I make all things new”.

The next time you find yourself suffering, say a prayer that you will have enough faith to find joy in your suffering, and that God will use your suffering for the good of souls.

God bless.

*FR. ANDREW MATTHEW*



## MOTHER'S DAY: PRAY FOR OUR MOTHERS

We celebrated Mother's Day last week and felt some mothers may have been treated and spoiled by their children on the day. For some families it's a day of celebration of motherhood within the family system, but sadly for some, it's a day that they dread so much as they may have parted with their mother due to death or through disputes within the family.

The role of mothers in our families is so important, it is like a lifeline for the family. Some say mothers are the backbone of the family that hold the head and the body of the family intact. Some even say she's the heart of the family, that loving and nurturing heart that gives and never asks for anything in return, that gives out love to her children.



We must pray and thank our mothers every time we have a chance as we'll never know what tomorrow brings and this may be left unsaid. That is why we should give thanks and praise to our Mother Mary everyday and pray for her intercessions as one of the aspects of the Legion devotion to Mary is the special honoring of her as our real mother which in fact she is.

In our Handbook it states that "We must look to her to feed us, to guide us, to teach us, to cure our ailments, to console us in our griefs, to counsel us in times of doubt, to recall us when we wander, so that wholly . . . (Tbc)

## SENATUS MEETING DATES FOR 2023

21	MAY
11	JUNE
09	JULY
13	AUGUST
10	SEPTEMBER
08	OCTOBER
12	NOVEMBER
10	DECEMBER

confided to her care, we may grow to the resemblance of our elder brother, Jesus, and share his mission of combating sin and conquering it.”

Let us remember our mothers on this special day, pray to Mary for them and their work so that they don't limit their tasks to the generation of the new person but to extend it so the function of the nourishing and educating of her offspring. Happy and blessed mother's day to all the mothers of the Legion of Mary New Zealand and the Pacific.

JOHN TAGIILIMA

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR MAY 2023

### MONTH OF MAY

Month of Mother Mary

### 12 MAY

Edel Quinn's Death Anniversary - 12th May (Praesidium Level)

### 18 MAY / 21 MAY

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

### 28 MAY

Pentecost Sunday



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*To order items from the Senatus Stall, Please contact Br. Mark Gasparini*