

INPUT FOR PERSONAL OR COMMUNAL REFLECTION

7. Father Francis Jordan, a blessed who venerated Mary

by Fr. Leonhard Berchtold SDS, Munich, 1 November 2020

Fr. Francis of the Cross:

“Never neglect to cherish and to foster a childlike devotion to Mary at all times; in everything let her be your advocate. Oh Mary, take and accept me as your unworthy servant for all eternity!”

(SD I,120)

“Once in a dream, as I was being pursued by a mob for some reason and was fleeing, Mary, with the Child Jesus in her arms, appeared to me in glorious splendour. She looked at me so lovingly...”

(SD I, 121)

“Argue with God, insist with Him, pester Him, and indeed do the same with His beautiful Mother, Mary, because this pleases them and they rejoice over your persistence! (St. Pompilio Pirotti)”

(SD I, 183)

“For the glory of God and the salvation of souls establish, with God’s help, a society in honour of the Immaculate Blessed Virgin Mary!... Oh Mother of God, be my protectress and powerful helper!”

(SD II, 87)

“To live and die holy and to save all! Oh Jesus, Son of the living God, through the sorrows of Your Mother, I urgently beg this of You with all my strength now and for my whole life. O Mary, my Mother, into your hands I place my lot.”

(SD III, 10)

“He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.” (John 21,17)

Fr. Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan kept his childlike trust in Mary, the Mother of God, throughout his life. Yes, he consciously included her name in his religious name in order to make his connection to Our Lady clear. He venerated her above all as Queen of the Apostles, who asked the Holy Spirit for the disciples on the Feast of Pentecost. Knowing his vocation to pray, work and live for the salvation of all people, Fr. Francis also venerated her as the Mother of the Saviour. He placed his new foundations un-

der her protection (“Marian College”). In hopeless situations, he took refuge in the Sorrowful Mother and prayed long and fervently before her statue (in his room). As the Founder, he used to lay small pieces of paper at her feet with concrete sorrows. Father Jordan loved the Mother of the Lord as his own mother. The vestments of the Salvatorians were equipped with a rosary; it should always be at hand for the confreres

Suggestion:

Inspired by the spirit of our founder Fr. Francis Jordan, it is timely to refresh and readjust our personal relationship with Mary, the Mother of Jesus and our Mother.

- Which Marian accents of Fr. Jordan inspire my life?
- Which Marian forms of prayer are familiar to me and strengthen my faith?



Fr. Francis Jordan - Charcoal drawing