

Inside the Legion of Mary – Our Lady of the Legion

Mary, Mold of God

By Father Francis J. Peffley

The Marian Synthesis is read as a collective consecration by the priest at the Acies ceremony after the legionaries have made the individual act of consecration. It is a summary of Mary's role in God's plan of salvation and redemption and how the Church has reflected on that. This prayer is really like an "Apostles Creed" of what legionaries should believe about Our Lady. It talks about how we have an obligation to her because she is the Mother of the Lord. She gave us Christ. Without Mary, there would be no Christmas, no Easter, no Eucharist, no Christ, no salvation. It says mankind would still be "in the darkness of the lost world" were it not for Mary bringing the light of Christ into the world. God gave her who remained a creature, an indispensable role in the salvation of that world.

Frank Duff, in writing this beautiful piece, intended to fill in the legionaries' short formula – *I am all Yours, my Queen, my Mother, and all I have is Yours* – with a deeper theological meditation, to expand that brief moment of prayer into a fuller awareness of who Mary is, of how much appreciation is due to her in her role in God's plan of salvation. Mary was the new Eve; God created her for Christ, the new Adam: her *yes* to God helped to reverse the Fall. The first Adam and Eve said *no* to God, but Christ and the Blessed Mother said *yes*, making her the channel of God's graces to the world. She became the Mediatrix of Grace when she allowed God to be born within her. She became his helper, his cooperator in the plan of salvation.

In this beautiful prayer we see that Mary, first of all, was always in the mind of God; he foresaw how the human race would sin, how Eve's sin would affect Adam, the head of the human race, and how the Fall would be reversed. Mary was an eternal dream in the mind of God, and he created her as the Immaculate Conception, preserved from sin by the grace of Christ as a new Eve, fulfilling the age old prophecy in the first book of the Bible that there will come a Woman that would help the second Adam crush the serpent's head.

Mary, during her lifetime, perfectly cooperated with God's plan by saying *yes* to God at the Annunciation and giving birth to the Savior, and by suffering along with him. This is one of the main themes of the Marian Synthesis prayer, how Mary suffered along with Christ. Totally united to him from his birth, throughout his life, and on to the foot of the cross, she thereby became the co-redemptrix, as the Church says, the co-sufferer with Christ. Mary gave the Divine Lamb to the Cross, and, the prayer says, helped to bring about the sacrificial death of Christ on Calvary by helping him to get to the Cross. She would have died at the foot of it had not Christ sustained her with his power and grace. He planned that she

be kept here on earth to nurse and to form the Mystical Infant Body of the Church.

And now, assumed into heaven, crowned Queen of Heaven and Earth, God has given her the distribution of all grace, has yielded to her his administration of Divine Providence. Not only did God not dismiss Mary as no longer needed after her stay on earth, but he has taken her “to the borders of divinity” as Frank Duff says. The prayer’s beautiful line, “In a real way you molded him who had made you,” is an ideal thought for legionaries whose True Devotion to Mary places them *in her* to be molded into her image. Since she is the “Mold of God”, the mold of Christ, legionaries living in her are sure to become like him. She is called the mold of God not just because she molded Christ within her in the womb, but because she “co-lived” with him in perfect union. That fact that Christ lives on in history through his Mystical Body the Catholic Church, Mary’s Maternity has expanded to all mankind. So all of us now are Mary’s children because Christ is in us. And it says we’re under Mary’s patient care until she gives birth to Christ in us and us into eternal life.