FROM FR. JASON

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Please join me in congratulating our 2nd Grade Faith Formation children who received the Body and Blood of our Risen Lord in Holy Communion for the first time on Saturday, May 4th. We wish them and their families to partake and nourish themselves with this Heavenly Sacrament every Sunday! Please keep them all in your prayers.

This Sunday at the 10:30 am Mass, we will crown Mary in our Church and in our homes as Our Lady and Mother. May all our mothers find in Her a model, strength, and consolation. Many families have taken so many beautiful initiatives to show their love for Mary. I encourage each family of our parish to make this month special for Mary in their homes. May your home become Her home. Mother's Day is right around the corner, next weekend, and it is a perfect day to also consecrate your entire family to Our Lady and to Her protection.

Some are confused by a title given to Mary in Greek called Theotokos. It means 'Mother of God' or 'God-bearer.' A woman is a man's mother either if she carried him in her womb or if she was the woman contributing half of his genetic matter or both. Mary was the mother of Jesus in both senses, because she not only carried Jesus in her womb but also supplied all the genetic matter for his human body, since it was through her - not Joseph - that Jesus 'was descended from David according to the flesh' (Rom. 1:3).

Since Mary is Jesus' mother, it must be concluded that she is also the Mother of God: if Mary is the mother of Jesus, and if Jesus is God, then Mary is the Mother of God. There is no way out of this logical syllogism, the valid form of which has been recognized by classical thinkers since before the time of Christ.

Although Mary is the Mother of God, she is not his mother in the sense that she is older than God or the source of her Son's divinity, for she is neither. Rather, we say that she is the Mother of God in the sense that she carried in her womb a divine person – Jesus Christ, God 'in the flesh' (2 John 7, cf. John 1:14) - and in the sense that she contributed the genetic matter to the human form God took in Jesus Christ.

Some assert that Mary did not carry God in her womb, but only carried Christ's human nature. This assertion reinvents a heresy from the fifth century known as Nestorianism, which runs aground on the fact that a mother does not merely carry the human nature of her child in her womb. Rather, she carries the person of her child. Women do not give birth to human natures; they give birth to persons. Mary thus carried and gave birth to the person of Jesus Christ, and the person she gave birth to was God. I hope this helps us to understand Mary, and our Lord, a little bit better.

One final thought, St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina would sometimes say to his spiritual children, "Do you not see the Madonna always beside the tabernacle?" And how could she fail to be there - she who 'stood by the Cross of Jesus' on Calvary (John 19:25)? Therefore, St. Alphonsus Liguori, in his book of devotions, used to always join a visit to the Blessed Virgin Mary to each visit to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

Peace,