

JULY 26

Saint Anne, Mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary

VERY ANCIENT tradition has preserved for us the names of Mary's parents, who were, "in their time and historical circumstances, a precious foundational stone in the fulfillment of the salvation of mankind" [Pope St. John Paul II, 26 July 1983]. Through them, the blessing that God promised to Abraham and his descendants has reached us, since we received the Savior through their cooperation. St. John Damascene affirms that we know the blessed couple by their fruits: the Virgin Mary is the resplendent fruit they gave to humanity. Saint Anne conceived her, most pure and immaculate, in her womb. "Oh! most beautiful, most lovable child," the holy Doctor exclaims, "Oh, daughter of Adam and Mother of God! Blessed be the womb that bore you! Blessed be the arms that held you, the lips that had the privilege of kissing you."

Saints Joachim and Anne had the immense privilege of caring for the Mother of God in their own home. The Lord must have poured out many graces on them throughout this time. St. Teresa of Avila, who used to put the monasteries she founded under the protection of St. Joseph and St. Anne, argues: "The mercy of God is so great, he will never fail to favor the homes of his glorious grandmother." Jesus descended directly from the maternal side of the faithful parents whose feast we celebrate today....

Commentary from In Conversation With God (1991) by Fr. Francis Fernandez-Carvajal.

Pope St. John Paul II teaches that Saints Joachim and Anne are "a constant source of inspiration in everyday family and social life. Pass on to one another," he exhorts, "from one generation to the next, the entire spiritual legacy of Christian life including prayer." Mary received the treasure of traditions of the House of David, which had been passed on for generations, from her parents at home. Here, Our Lady learned to address her Father God with profound reverence. In this home she learned of the prophecies referring to the coming of the Messiah - the place of his birth.

Mary surely remembered the home of her parents when it came time to set up her own home when Jesus was to be born. The Lord then learned from his mother popular ways of speaking and sayings full of wisdom which he later employed in his preaching. The child Jesus piously heard from her motherly lips the first prayers the Hebrews taught their children as soon as they could speak. What a good teacher Our Lady must have been! With what tenderness did she reflect the richness of her own soul so full of grace. It is likely that we also have received the inestimable gift of Faith and countless good customs from ancestors who have conserved and transmitted them in turn as a treasure. At the same time, we have the gracious duty of maintaining this living patrimony in order to pass it on to others.



Proper Prayers of the Mass in the Extraordinary Form

ADDENDUM:

COMMEMORATION OF SAINT ANNE, MOTHER OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



SECOND COLLECT

DEUS, qui beátæ Annæ grátiam conférre dignátus es, ut Genitricis unigéniti Filii tui mater éffici mererétur: concéde, propítius, ut, cujus solémnia celebrámus, ejus apud te patrocíniis adjuvémur. Per eúndem Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum Filium tuum ...

O GOD, Who didst vouchsafe to bestow upon blessed Anne such grace, that she was found worthy to become the mother of her who brought forth Thine only-begotten Son: mercifully grant, that we who celebrate her festival, may be helped by her intercession with Thee. Through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord ...

SECOND SECRET

SACRIFICIIS præsentibus, quæsumus, Dómine, placátus inténde: ut per intercessiónem beátæ Annæ, quæ Genitricis Filii tui Dómini nostri Jesu Christi mater éxstitit, et devotióni nostræ proficiant, et salúti. Per eúndem Dóminum ...

GRACIOUSLY have regard to this Sacrifice, we beseech Thee, O Lord; that through the intercession of blessed Anne, who was mother of her who brought forth Thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ, it may profit us unto both devotion and salvation. Through ...

SECOND POSTCOMMUNION

CÆLÉSTIBUS sacraméntis vegetáti, quæsumus, Dómine, Deus noster: ut, intercessióne beátæ Annæ, quam Genitricis Filii tui matrem esse voluísti, ad ætérenam salútem pervenire mereámur. Per eúndem Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum Filium tuum ...

WE WHO have been nourished by these heavenly Sacraments, beseech Thee, O Lord, our God: that, through the intercession of blessed Anne, whom Thou didst will to be the mother of her who brought forth Thy Son, we may be worthy to attain eternal salvation. Through ...

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