

Jesus The Lord Our Saviour

May 2012 Issue 20 Volume 1

(Not For Sale)



“ In my distress I cry to the LORD, that he may answer me.” (Psalm 120:1)

BLESSINGS OF GOD BE YOURS...



**Jesus The Lord
Our Saviour**

**“ In my distress I cry to the LORD, that he may
answer me.” (Psalm 120:1)**

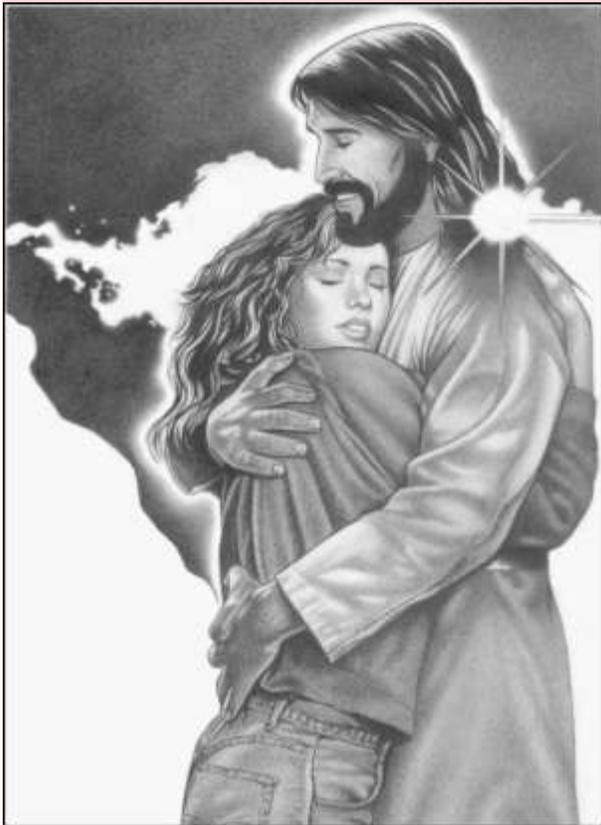
O Powerful God! I Praise and Adore You!

Yaweh, my God! I fall prostrate in adoration at Your Feet and implore You during this time of distress.

You raised my family up so high in Your glory! But LORD today my family and myself present a dismal picture. I am distraught and shattered !

You who pay heed to our petitions! Incline Your ears towards me! Listen O Lord and hear my supplications!

Wishes, lustful thinking, sorrows , hatred shake up the foundations of my family! We are unable to stay together as a family and live happily! My enemies strike their opposition from within my family!



There is no peace outside! There is no peace interiorly too!

LORD free us from the clutches of the evil one! LORD I seek Your Peace.

You alone can remove all hurdles from my family and establish peace!

LORD listen to my prayer. Thankyou for paying heed to my petitions.

Thankyou for touching me. Thankyou for Blessing me. Thankyou!

AMEN ! ALLELUIA!

Fr. V. Ignatius. S. J.

BELOVED IN CHRIST...



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“Pray that you may not enter into temptation.” (Luke 22:40)



Beloved in Christ! During the seven weeks in Lent, beginning Ash Wednesday on 22nd February to 8th April, when we celebrated the solemnity of the Glorious Resurrection of Jesus Christ, Our LORD had taken me to seven parishes in six dioceses, to meet several thousands of people, to preach the Good News, to speak words of consolation and to intercede with GOD for healing. The Yesuve Aandavar team who accompanied me were instrumental in praying along with me for the healings of those people. Those whose prayers are said on behalf of the people along with me, will in turn have their own supplications raised to the throne of God, as “golden bowls full of incense “. (Revelation 5:8)

The Churches we visited and the people we met:

Our Lady of Assumption Church on 24th, 25th and 26th February. St. Xavier’s Church, Kottar, Nagercoil on 2nd, 3rd and 4th March.

St. Joseph’s Church, Porur, Chennai on 9th and 10th March. Thendral Nagar, Avadi, Chennai on 11th March. St. Francis of Assisi Church, Atthipalayam, Coimbatore on 16th, 17th, and 18th March. Sacred Heart Church, Bangalore on 23rd, 24th and 25th March. St. Xavier’s Church and Our Lady of Snows Church, Punnaikayal, Tuticorin on March 30th, 31st and April 1st. The Queen of Angels retreat and counseling centre, Keelkottaiyur on April 5th to 8th.

I met thousands of believers in all these areas. The Lord blessed their faith. He quenched their spiritual thirst. Faith is a marvelous gift from God!

BELOVED IN CHRIST...



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Different faces of worries, family problems, troubles beyond human strength, controversies imprison many from growing in wisdom and holiness. It dulls the hearts of many.

We have faith and prayer on one side and the invisible action of the evil spirit on the other hand! It has ruined many families. Greed for money and sexual pleasures has brought many families to tears. These make the minds of people dull (Is.6:10).

People gather for prayer meetings in large numbers but the dull hearts, pride, sexual desires and worldly thoughts blur their minds and hinder them from deep prayer.

Those who attend prayer meetings and remain with worldly thought devoid of conversion of hearts are surely very far from the presence of God. A question we must reflect on these days:

“Am I close of God or far away from Him?”

I wish you joy!

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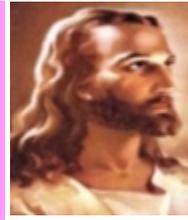
“But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all thy works.” (Psalm 73:28)

A thought flashes across my mind when I read these verses... I wish to be very close to God whenever I face troubles. There is an abundance of peace and joy when I seek His company and His solace.

But during Our LORD Jesus Christ's moments of intense sufferings, and troubles who was closest to Him? We read at several instances that a huge crowd followed Him. People thronged along side Him where ever He went. But who was with Him during His moment of suffering? Who understood His heart aches? There can be none closest to the LORD than His dear Mother Mary.

“ So the soldiers did this. But standing by the Cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Mag'dalene. When Jesus saw his mother , and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold , your son!” Then he said to the disciple, “ Behold , your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.” (John 19:25-27)

**“But for me it is good to be near
God” (Psalm 73:28)**



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Let us ponder awhile...

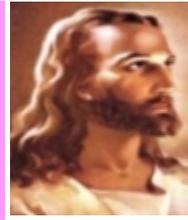
When God became Man and lived amongst men, who were the people who understood Him? Who were those who stood by Him as his support during His agonizing moments? When He went up on His walk towards Mt. Calvary who understood His deep thoughts and feelings ?

When we read the Scriptures, the Good News, we understand the many miracles, and good deeds performed by Our LORD. Although He lived a secluded and hidden life with His parents for thirty years, yet He preached publicly during His three years with the people. He performed several miracles.

Before He set out on His public Ministry, He was filled with the anointing of the Holy Spirit and sought to go in solitude to the wilderness. He fasted and prayed day in and day out for forty days. He prayed to the Heavenly Father that the will of the Heavenly Father be fulfilled through Him. But satan came to tempt Him even then. Satan instigated Him to shun the will and plans of God the Father and to live according to His own wish, and to seek the name ,fame and pleasures that the worldly life could offer. But Jesus chased satan away saying, “ I have come to do the will of the Father.”

He stood as a living witness to the fact that man does not live by bread alone, but by every Word that comes from the mouth of God. The worldly pride, fame, the attractions of the world, the inclination towards hoarding money and wealth, all these are not essential to me. He bore testimony for the sufficiency of God’s will in His life. No one else can take the place or be compared to Our LORD in bearing testimony to the life of faith.

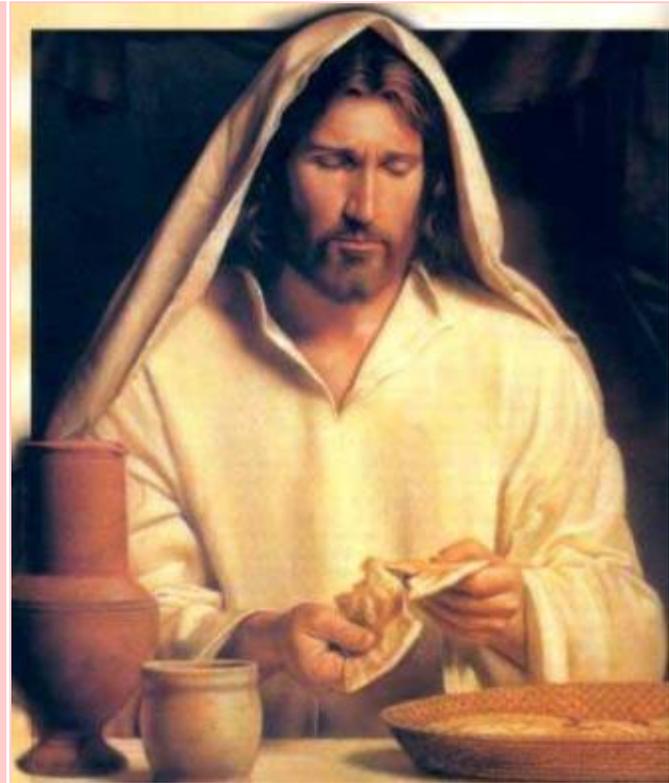
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When Jesus went about performing miraculous deeds, people thronged around Him in great crowds. He caused the lame to walk! He gave sight to the blind! He empowered those who were paralysed! He healed the lepers! He forgave sinners of their sins! He restored life to the dead and caused them to rise and walk .He commanded and calmed the roaring , restless sea! With just a Word from Him , the fig tree shriveled and died! He multiplied bread in just a matter of seconds.

Several thousands were satiated of their hunger. He miraculously turned water into wine. The guests were satisfied. The people who witnessed all these, sang, “ Hosanna , Hosanna” and walked close beside Him. True enough. But even in this crowd how many of them were truly close to Him? How many understood His deep feelings? How many of them could comfort Him?



Just a few hours before Jesus could undergo the sufferings, He stayed with His disciples and ate the Pascal meal. He then gave them His Body and His Blood as Food and Drink. (Luke 22:19-20)He sealed a New Covenant in His Blood which He deigned to pass on as a legacy. He remained talking to them with deep affection and concern.

Even in the midst of it all there was a heated argument among the apostles, His closest friends, as to who was the greatest among them.(Luke 22:24-27)Jesus was about to be arrested by the enemies, derided, flogged, in a shameful manner, carry the Cross and be killed on the Cross on Mt. Calvary. Even at this crucial moment the friends who were always with Him, did not understand Him. They merely stood by His side. But the Truth is that none of them understood what His heart was beating for. Ponder over this. Now you live with some friends in the family. You are amidst several relatives.

Let us suppose that you are placed where several thousands come to pray. Imagine that the husband who is closest to you or the wife who is closest to you has not understood you. How would your hurt feeling be?

“But for me it is good to be near God" (Psalm 73:28)



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Imagine that your parents have not understood you or that your children have not understood you. Think about how your heart would suffer and ache. How much you suffer when your brother or sister or a close friend, does not understand you and is unconcerned about you? Think about it.

Even in our own families, when our near and dear ones, relatives , siblings fail to understand us, and are unconcerned about us, how much we suffer?

Even as you read this, consider whether you look on those who are your own and those close to you, with concern. Do you know the sufferings that your parents go through? Is earning plenty of money alone your ultimate aim? I have on several occasions come across parents who are set aside and deprived of all love and affection by their children. On the contrary I have also come across children who long for the love of their parents. They shed tears stating, “Although I have my mom and dad, yet I remain an orphan , no one understands me.”

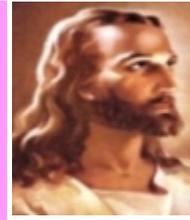
Inspite of all the luxuries, the presence of the siblings, yet none understands them and this proves to be more cruel than the pangs of death.

The Cross that pressed His shoulders, the crown of thorns that pierced His Head and the scourges that Jesus received, would have caused Him untellable agony.

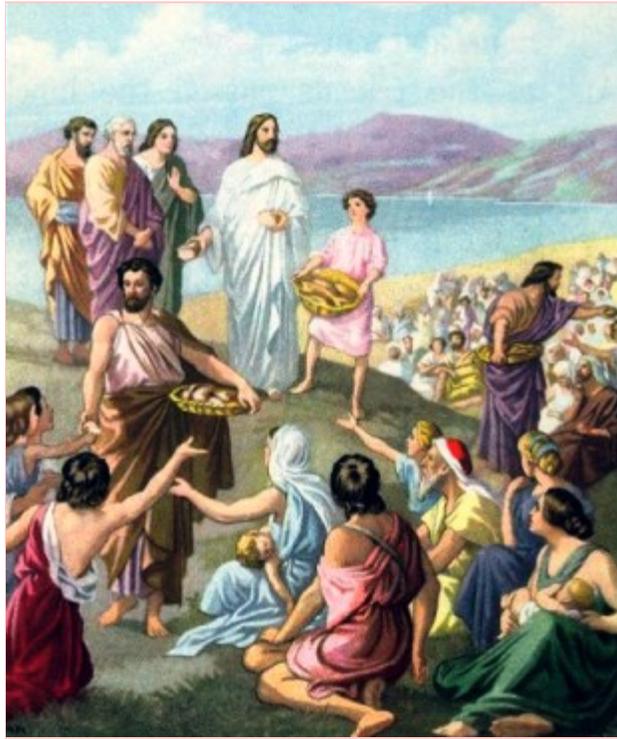
But the uncaring attitude of those who walked close to Him, and their neglect would have caused Him greater pain, pain beyond compare. In spite of listening to all His unique preaching, witnessing all the miracles, yet the hard-heartedness of those who failed to understand Him and their dullness of heart would have caused Him greater pain compared to the burdensome Cross that He carried. The uncaring attitude of those close to Him and their ingratitude would have crushed His heart immensely. The misunderstanding of those who related close to Him would have caused Him sufferings that can be likened to the pangs of death. They were the ones who kept arguing and fighting among themselves as to who was the greatest among them all! This would have troubled His heart a great deal ! Those who were fighting for the coveted prime position did not care to understand the sufferings that Our LORD was going through, nor did they venture to partake of the suffering.

What occurred two thousand years ago to our LORD, happens to us even to this day. Are His disciples inclined to understand the LORD’s sufferings or do they wish to participate in His sufferings? Do you have a heart that beats for the LORD?

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Once Jesus was preaching long hours to the people in a forest , outside the city of Galilee .The people thronged around Him in great multitudes. (John 6:2) He preached to this great crowd. Then He provided them all with food. He caused the five loaves of bread to multiply miraculously and fed them all. The People ate and were happy. They rejoiced and made noise in recognizing that He was the prophet who was destined to come to the world. They wished to get hold of Him and crown Him King. (John 6:14-15) But Jesus escaped from the crowd and went up to a lonely place on the mountain. The crowds went in search of Him and came up to Him. They asked Him, “Rabbi , when did you come here?”Jesus replied , : “ Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not labour for the food that perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life.” (John 6:26-27) Those people had come to Jesus in a crowd, expecting to get something from Him. They had not come

seeking the LORD truly, and to have Him in their hearts. Hence OUR LORD was greatly saddened over the episode. (When we conduct Prayer meetings in several cities and towns, I see a great crowd of people coming. It is very scarce to find people who come seeking solely The LORD. I see the majority coming over with some need in their heart.)

How many disciples walked with the LORD? One of His twelve apostles kissed Jesus on His cheek and betrayed Him, all for a paltry sum of money. Judas was an individual who was walking close to the LORD. The other eleven were lost in fighting among themselves as to who was the greatest among them and were thus highly confused.(Consider how immense is the fighting and jealousy among those holding responsible positions in the Church and among the various associations and Christian denominations.)

Even as you read this article , think as to who is the greatest in your family? Is it the husband? Wife? In some families we see that they are not merely scared of the husband , but a certain kind of slavish attitude crushes the family. In some families the angry attitude of the wife would cause misery. In some other families, the son’s arrogance, would paralyse the family.

“But for me it is good to be near God" (Psalm 73:28)

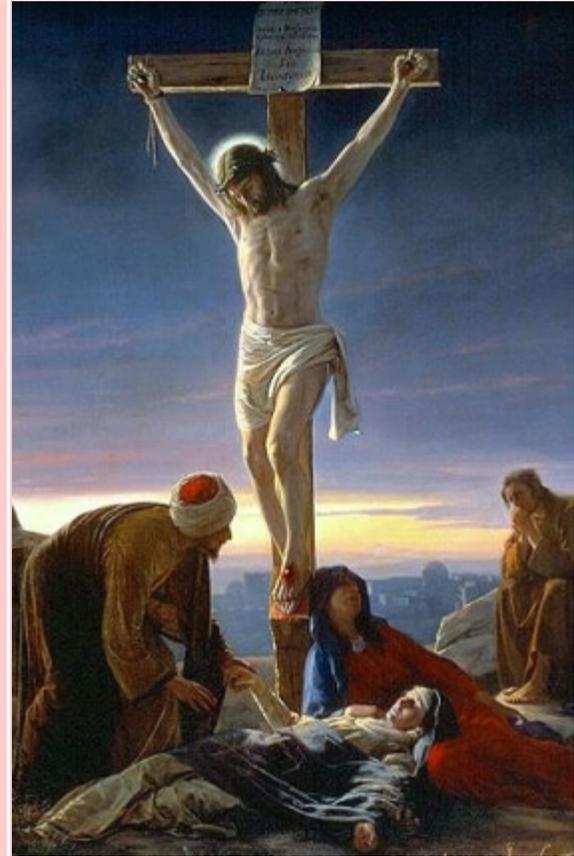


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But the advise given by Our LORD to His disciples is this: “ Let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as the one who serves.” (Luke 22:26-27) Although Jesus is the LORD, He emptied Himself and humbled Himself as the servant of all. Although He possesses all power yet He came to us as One who serves. The one who humbles Himself as Jesus, will be considered great in the sight of God.

Thus understanding His feelings and His heart throb , His dear Mother walked along side Him , partook of His passion and stood by Him so close participating in His sufferings to the full. Thus some women and John , one of the twelve apostles stood at the foot of the Cross.

At this moment just as you read this, do you wish to be like the Mother and like the beloved disciple who console Our LORD? Ask the Mother of Our LORD:



Ask our dear Mother, “Mother, how did You keep the LORD in Your heart? Teach me the same.” The Mother who stood at the foot of the Cross and offered Her dear Son as a Sacrifice will teach us about Her state of mind when the Angel Gabriel met Her thirty three years earlier. When Mother Mary was an adolescent, God sent the Archangel Gabriel to Her. He informed Her that with the Power of the Most High, She would conceive The Eternal Word in Her womb. He taught Her that the Eternal Word would be born as Man. The Virgin Mary would have been around 13 to 15 years, a young girl. She was not fully aware of the world then. She was not yet married but merely engaged. The Angel Gabriel would have met the Virgin Mary several times for many days and explained the Divine Mysteries. The Arch angel would have revealed the thoughts and plans of God to Her.

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The Archangel greeted Her, “ Hail, Full of Grace”. As the Mother realized the divine mysteries more and more, She was stunned. She bore the Heavenly secrets in Her heart and said, “ Let it be done to me according to Your Word, “ and carried God in Her heart. This is the secret Truth possessed by the Mother of God! It was this secret ,the hidden truths that led Her even up to Mt. Calvary. She stood at the foot of the Cross as the Handmaid of God. She bore God in Her womb and brought Him up in Her bosom. She embraced Him close to Her heart and lived solely for Him. She always bore Her Son in front of Her eyes.

As you read this you too may pray to the Divine Mother, and ask Her, “ Mother Dear! How did You bear the LORD within Your heart? Will You teach me?” And She will teach you too: “ You look at the LORD and say, “ Let it be done to me according to Your Word.”

As She had completely submitted Herself to the will of God, She was a Woman of great Faith. Blessed is She who believed. (Luke 1:45) If we wish to be close to God, to be a consoling friend for God, then we should practice being a servant of the LORD, just like Our Mother did. We shall learn from the Divine Mother by saying, “ Behold Your Handmaid. Your Word is Bread.”

There are several millions of people in this world who call themselves the disciples of Jesus. But when our heart is pressed down by the lures of the world and the attraction for money, it is very difficult to walk close to God bearing Him in our heart. If someone really desires to be pleasing to God and to bear Him in their heart, then the individual should relate close to the Mother of God. The person should converse with Her and comprehend Her state of mind.

Converse and learn from our dear Mother, “ Mother,! Come stay within my heart. Be inside my heart. Come to my heart bearing Your Son .” The Virgin Mother is the Mother of God. She not only carried the Divine Word in Her heart, but She bore The Word within Her womb and gave The Word a human form. God performs several miracles in this world. This Mother is the wonder of wonders , a great miracle in all of God’s creation. This is because She bore the All-Powerful God Himself in Her womb. If She bore God within, what a Mother She should be ! How would God conceive in His mind about a woman who could bear the Eternal Word within Her womb! Ponder over how God would have thought about Her in His mind.

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A Mother who bore God in Her womb and sacrificed Herself totally for His sake! By emptying and breaking Herself , She gave birth to the Son of God! Only when an egg cracks and breaks itself open, does the chick emerge. Only in the sacrifice of the egg does the growth of the chick lay. This is a Mother. If a mother were not to break herself, a child cannot make its presence in the world! Motherhood is hidden in sacrifice. The Mother of God made Herself a servant of God and sacrificed Her all for His sake. That was why the Eternal Word took flesh in Her womb. Thus, God chose Her as His special instrument.

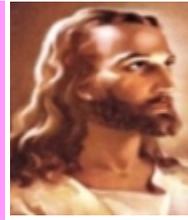
Jesus did not fling His Mother away. He understood fully well that He became Man only by the sacrifice of the Mother and of course only the close embrace of the Mother gave Him all solace. God is The Eternal Word! He was not born only as the Bible in this world. But He was born as flesh, as Man in this world. The sole reason behind the Eternal Word taking on the human form is the Holy Virgin Mother who is Sacrifice personified.

Will God throw that Mother away? If God were to throw that Mother away , then He can neither be God nor can He be man. But God who conceived Her in His Eternal thoughts as “Full of Grace” and wished Her so, calls each one of us to keep Her in our thoughts. This was what Jesus spoke to His beloved disciple who stood at the foot of the Cross, “ Behold your Mother.” (John 19:27)

What did this Mother do in all Her sacrifice? She lived in total intimacy with Her Son every instant from the moment She conceived the Son of God in Her womb, to the moment when He gave His Spirit at Calvary. She walked along side Him knowing fully well His thoughts, by understanding His wishes and feelings and by making it all Her own.

Jesus grew for thirty years in Her embrace and in Her bosom. He grew up for thirty years with this Mother being known as the Son of a carpenter. How minutely and intricately would the Mother have known all about Her Son? If one were to write all that She knew about the LORD, then how much could have been written? Is it merely one Bible? Several Bibles could have been written. The Mother of God is the biggest Bible about Our LORD.

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All the miracles that Our LORD had performed and all that He had preached, during the three years of His public Ministry is presented only to an extent by the four Evangelists. But what did Our LORD speak and do during the thirty years before that? Who had ever written about His glance, His mannerisms, His wishes? Only the Mother of Jesus. She had written it all in Her heart. That is why we say that the entire History of Our LORD is His Mother. The Virgin Mother is the unwritten Bible! The secrets of His heart lay hidden in the heart of the Divine Mother. If we open the heart of this Mother, then She would teach us a few treasures from within. You too may ask and She will teach you. Who is God? Why did He become Man? He has a heart that is beating for us. His heart is akin to the beat of the human heart. A Mother's heart that can comprehend the divine heart beat of Her Son! You may go and speak to this Mother ! She will in turn speak to you.

How hurt would you feel when your husband , your wife your son or your daughter does not speak to you and is unconcerned about you? How greatly would you agonise on this? Now who is there in this world to understand Our LORD? At a moment when there is none to understand Our LORD, the only soul that fully understood Him was The Mother who stood at the foot of the Cross. I too ponder over this, about Our LORD. I write down my thoughts as an article. But I suffer , being unable to make all His thoughts my own.

I pray thus: “ LORD, who was ever there on this earth to understand Your thoughts? You had gathered the twelve apostles and the seventy disciples beside You to understand Your agony, yet none of them ever comprehended any of it!” Praying in this manner, I wished to look at Jesus hanging on the Cross. It seemed that Jesus who was leaning His head spoke to my heart. “There is none my dear friend. There is only One Woman. The Mother who bore me was the only One who understood me fully well. My Mother is the One who knew me fully, in all the world. She keeps me close within Her heart. Her heart is the One that always beats for me.” Before Jesus could offer Himself up as a sacrifice for the world, He finally pointed out His dear Mother to His disciple, as a treasure. “Behold your Mother” and He thus bequeathed Her as a rich legacy to each one of us. Blessed is the disciple who takes the Mother of God as His own Mother.

I wish you Joy.

Fr. V. Ignatius.S.J.