



INTERNATIONAL
APOSTOLIC
FAMILY
FEDERATION

MAY 2022

The Family Federation is a new type of free, apostolic community of committed Catholic married couples, who through generous striving and faith in Divine Providence live their secular calling in the world. In the spirit of the Evangelical Counsels, and in close union with the Church for the **Marian transformation of the world in Christ.**

Pope St. Pius X, in his encyclical *Ad diem illum*, published on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, affirms that. Mary is the most direct and vital way to encounter Christ.

Fr. Kentenich mentions again and again this passage from this encyclical: No one is more valuable than Mary for effectively uniting people to Jesus. And since, according to the teaching of the Divine Master: " Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ." (Jn 17:3), just as through Mary we attain a vital knowledge of Jesus Christ, so too through her it is easier for us to acquire the life of which he is the beginning and source.

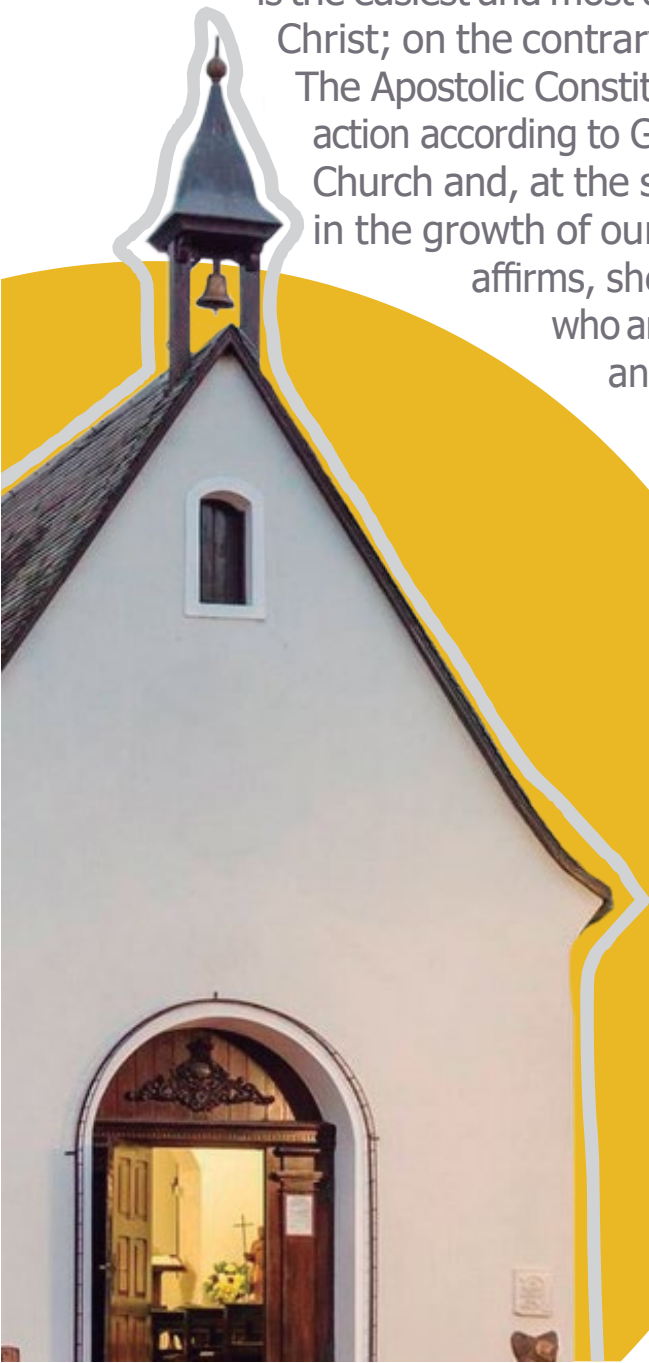
It is a matter of encountering Christ not theoretically but vitally and of establishing with him a profound union of life and mission. And in the new evangelization this is precisely the goal. To achieve this, as the Pope affirms Mary is the easiest and most direct way. She does not take us away from Christ; on the contrary, she binds us closely to him.

The Apostolic Constitution *Lumen Gentium* shows Mary's being and action according to God's plan, pointing to her as the prototype of the Church and, at the same time, as the Mother who accompanies us in the growth of our faith. With her motherly love, the Council

affirms, she cares for the brothers and sisters of her Son, who are on pilgrimage and are struggling with dangers and anguish and fighting against sin until they are brought to their happy homeland. For this reason, the Blessed Virgin is invoked in the Church with the titles of Advocate, Helper, Help, Mediatrix (cf. LG c. 8).

Fr. Kentenich gave a vision of Mary that is distinguished by being an integral image integrated in all the truths of the faith and, at the same time, centered in Christ: the central point of this insertion is her relationship with Christ, Redeemer of mankind.

It defines Mary as the official and permanent Companion and Helpmate of Christ in all his redemptive work. At the beginning, as Mother of the Lord; at the summit of her redemptive action, as Co-Redemptrix at the cross;



and in the application of the fruits of redemption, as Mediatrix of all graces. From this central axis, she relates to all the realities of the supernatural world. She is all of Christ and everything in her is referred to Christ; therefore, Mary is the perfect daughter of God the Father, the Handmaid of the Lord ready to do, in everything, His Will. For this reason she is also the fullness of the Spirit of Christ, of whom she is the perfect temple and instrument. United in prayer with her, for the fruitfulness of our General Chapter, we pray....

ROSARY OF GOD'S INSTRUMENTS

Preparatory Prayer

**334 Father, help us close the gates of our senses
and let bright light stream into our souls.
Lead us deeply into the warm radiance of faith
and into the mystery of redemption.**

**335 We want to quietly accompany the Redeemer
as we contemplate his life in the Rosary,
united with his strong Mother-Bride
whom he has chosen as his helpmate.**

**336 Give us the grace to grasp with our hearts
the message of each mystery
as we hear it in the Rosary,
and to form our lives accordingly.**

**337 Let us immerse ourselves into the ocean of love
which the Rosary allows us to drink in richly,
and let the glowing love of Christ and his Mother
in flame our weak sacrificial spirit.**

**338 Then our lives will soon become a mirror
of Christ's being and living here on earth.
In him we will go through the world with strength and kindness
as an image of Mary bringing blessings to all.**

**339 Then you may always use us as instruments
in your omnipotent, loving and mighty hands,
and form through us, in accordance with your plan,
the face of humanity today. Amen.**



May, Month of Mary