



## SAINT LOUIS ABBEY



**Abbot Thomas Frerking**

**Solemnity of the BVM, Mother and Mediatrix of Grace**

**May 8, 2009**

**Saint Louis Abbey**

**8:15 a.m. School Mass**

### **Homily**

We celebrate today the Solemnity of The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother and Mediatrix of Grace. It is under this title that she is the chief patron of our Monastery and School. But what does the title mean?

Grace is the divine life in our souls. In this life, it elevates us infinitely above our natural human life and in fact recreates us and makes us truly sons and daughters of God the Father, brothers and sisters of the Lord Jesus, temples of the Holy Spirit; in the next life, it flowers into the life of glory, when we shall see God and live forever with God and our brothers and sisters in God in heaven. Our Lord Jesus gives us this grace, this divine life, by extending his own divine life into our souls through the sacraments, and first through Baptism, so that we truly form one Body with the Lord, living by his divine life. But this means that the grace, the divine life, in our souls, since it is the grace, the divine life of Jesus himself, once existed in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and was brought forth by her. She is, then, the Mother of Grace, and the mother of grace within us. And that means that she is the mother of each one of us, quite literally, insofar as we are made by grace sons and daughters of God destined for heaven. But her motherhood of us does not cease once she has given birth to us when we first receive grace, through Baptism. No, throughout all the rest of our life she continues to care for us as our mother, always seeking for us an increase in our divine life, so that we may be more and more securely on the road to heaven. How does she do this? By constantly interceding with, praying to, her Son Jesus for us, constantly asking him to give us more graces, greater shares in the divine life. This means that she is the Mediatrix of Grace, that is, the one who constantly prays to her Son, intercedes with him, on our behalf that he might give us more grace, more gifts of salvation. What we are saying about Our Lady, then, when we call her the Mother and Mediatrix of Grace, is that she is *our* mother in the spiritual order, giving birth to us and sons and daughters of God, and looking after us all the rest of our life, with the unique care of a mother, that we may be brought to heaven.

How wonderful, then, to have Mary our Mother as the principal patron of each one of us in the Monastery, of each one of us in the School, and of each person in the great family of people around our Monastery and School. It means that she looks after us in a specially close and motherly way. We ought, then, always to give abundant, unlimited, thanks to Our Lord Jesus for giving us his Mother to be our Mother; we ought always to be giving abundant, unlimited thanks to her for consenting to be our Mother. Then, we ought always to be praying to her, always asking her intercession for our needs



## SAINT LOUIS ABBEY



and those of others, always praying to her as our Mother of Mercy, for mercy, love, compassion, pardon, endless pardon, are the quality of a mother, and so of this Mother above all, infinitely above all. Constantly pray to her then, constantly murmur prayers to her: “Mother of mercy, help me”, “Mother of mercy, be with me”, “Mother of mercy, beg for me pardon”. Pray the great prayers to her the Church gives us, all of which explicitly speak of, or allude to, her mercy: the Rosary, “Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy”, the Memorare, “Remember, O most gracious – that is, most merciful – Virgin Mary, . . .” And then, always, constantly, we should contemplate Our Mother Mary in all her radiant beauty, in all her mercy and fairest love. For, as the highest of all creatures, she of all creatures most manifests who her Son is. And what she shows us is that he is Love – God is Love. In heaven, that love will be the ecstasy of union and everlasting bliss, but in this world, where we are sinners, where we are so weak and so limited, that infinite love most manifests itself as mercy, that mercy which saves even the most sinful, the most unworthy, the poorest.

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,  
that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection,  
implored thy help, or sought thy intercession,  
was left unaided.  
Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of Virgins,  
my Mother.  
To thee do I come, before thee do I stand, sinful and sorrowful.  
O Mother of the Word in Incarnate, despise not my petitions,  
but in thy Mercy hear and answer me.