

ASIA-OCEANIA MARIOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

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ST. PAUL CENTER FOR RENEWAL

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**2009 ASIA-OCEANIA
MARIOLOGICAL
CONFERENCE**

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MARY as a Model of Dialogue and Hospitality

Fr. Martín Carbajo Núñez, ofm

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This paper will present Mary of Nazareth as our model of dialogue and hospitality. Preserved from all stain, Mary always retained original righteousness both in body and soul, and so she was able to declare her *fiat* in complete liberty. All of Mary's being became hospitable to the Word without ever losing anything of her own humanity¹. Eve disobeyed and wanted to be like God; Mary, on the other hand, represents the new humanity as she let the Holy Spirit transform her into a welcoming space for a free and affectionate encounter with God. In this way, the new Eve gives birth to the new Adam, becoming the symbol of all those who become an open place for the Word to camp². Believers of all times, races and cultures have felt the affectionate presence of our heavenly mother and, grasping her hand, have celebrated to be one in Christ³. Yes, all human beings are the only Son of the Father, the only son of Mary⁴.

1. Created for dialogue

God is not a distant and inaccessible "immobile motor", but rather a friendly and warm-hearted being, who has created everything because he loves. God is an absolutely free person, "a lover with all the passion of a true love" .

1.1. Everything was created to enable man's dialogue with God

God's universal and salvific will precedes creation, because everything has been called into existence to allow the encounter between the Word and our freedom⁶. The whole of creation is good because it is loved⁷, and it has been loved as the space where God and man can meet.

God creates separating, differentiating, and in this way he transforms the chaos into cosmos, the confusion into a welcoming space, suitable for a free and affectionate encounter. He has created us each different from himself and so we can communicate with him and among ourselves. Being different we can become mutually enriched, instead of getting lost in a sterile monologue. Created in the image of the free and loving God, we grow in freedom as we educate our will to love.

¹"In giving her assent to Gabriel's word, Mary lost nothing of her true humanity and freedom". JOHN PAUL II, Encyclical Letter *Fides et ratio*, [=FR], 14-IX-1998, n. 108, in *Acta Apostolicae Sedis*, [=AAS], 91 (1999) 5-88.

²"The Word became flesh, he lived among us". Jn 1:14.

³Cf. Gal 3:28.

⁴"In the same holy bosom of his most chaste Mother Christ took to Himself flesh, and united to Himself the spiritual body formed by those who were to believe in Him. [...] We have issued from the womb of Mary like a body united to its head". PIUS X, Encyclical Letter *Ad Diem Ilium Laetissimum*, 2-11-1904, n. 10, in AAS 36 (1904) 530-542. Cf. S.M. ALONSO, *Maternidad espiritual de María. Hijos de Dios, hijos de María: filiación divina y mariana*, in *Ephemerides mariologicae* 1 (2008) 41-42.

⁵BENEDICT XVI, Encyclical Letter *Deus caritas est*, [=DC], 25-XII-2005, n. 10, in AAS 98 (2006) 217-252. In Duns Scot "the primacy of the will sheds light on the fact that God is charity before all else". ID, Apostolic Letter *On the occasion of the VII centenary of the death of the blessed John Duns Scotus*, [=Scot], in *L'Osservatore Romano*, [=OR], (24-XII-2008), 9.

⁶"Everything is created so that this story can exist, the encounter between God and his creature. In this sense, salvation history, the Covenant, precedes creation". BENEDICT XVI, *Meditation during the first General Congregation of the 12th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops*, 6-VIII-2008, in *Ecclesia* 3436 (2008) 26. We have developed much more extensively the aspects related to freedom in the paper we presented at the Mariological Congress that took place at Vailankanni (India), 1-3 May 2008.

⁷"God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good". Gen 1:31.