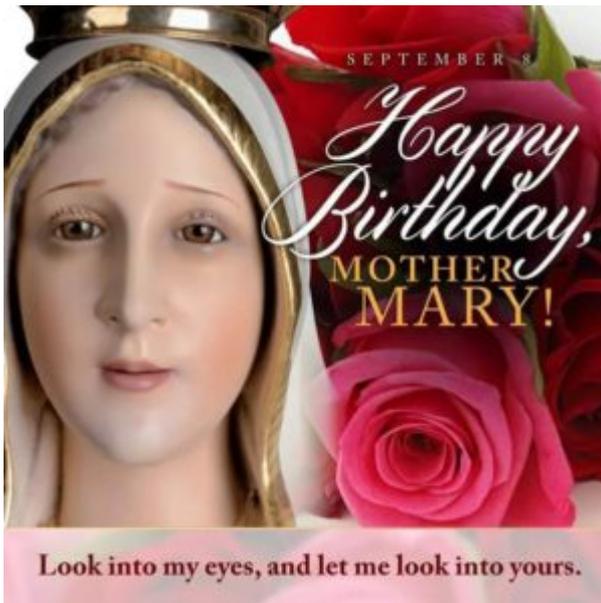


Birthday of Mother Mary



God knew from all eternity that man would sin tempted by the devil. In order to outdo the cunningness of the devil, God promised a Saviour for the human race. The eternal wisdom of God planned a mother for the Saviour who would not partake of the sin of Adam, but would have the grace that Adam and Eve had before their fall. Therefore the Three Persons of the Holy

Trinity willed one thing: The Mother of the Saviour would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and be the beloved daughter of the Heavenly Father. She would be willing what God wanted her to will and thus she would become the handmaid of the Lord.

With this plan God created Virgin Mary, through her parents Joachim and Anne, already from the moment of conception, free from the original sin and its consequences. Therefore when Jesus came into the world he said: Father, "you have prepared a body for me" (Heb. 10.5).

The birthday of Virgin Mary is the '**Mother's day**' for every believer in Christ because Jesus said from the Cross to the believing disciple: "This is your Mother" and to his Mother: "This is your son". "From that hour the disciple took her into his own home" (Jn. 19.27). Do I take Mother Mary into my heart and mind, into my life, my family and give her the due love, respect and dignity that Christ and John gave her?

Jesus said: "Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and my sister and my mother" (Mt. 12.50). Only if we do the will of our heavenly Father, we can become the

brothers and sisters of Jesus, sons and daughters of Mother Mary.

Prayer: Mother Mary help us to live like you, one will with God and say like you: "I am the handmaid of the Lord".

Fr.James Mariakumar SVD