Mary's Eyes

Sermon October 4 2026

I have lifted up my eyes to the mountains, from whence help shall come to me.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Blessed are the clean of heart: for they shall see God.

Dear friends, today is the First Sunday of October, the month in which Holy Mother Church invites us to contemplate and to relish in the mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary—that is, to see Our Lord Jesus Christ through the eyes of His most chaste and holy Mother.

During this month, our tender Mother seeks to woo us into observing with greater devotion how the Blessed Virgin Mary gazed at her Divine Son during His earthly life, and how she now gazes upon Him from her station as His Queen Mother, from her queenly throne.

And although we may be deprived of the opportunity to see Jesus with our physical eyes, with Mary, the Church hopes that we, like her, will see Him with the eyes of our hearts.

But Mary kept all these words, pondering them in her heart.

And through the contemplation of the mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary of the ever-glorious Blessed Virgin Mary, Holy Church daily both renews her call to us to sustain our gaze and also provides the means for doing so. Put another way: the Most Holy Rosary is both invitation and method.

Blessed are the clean of heart: for they shall see God.

But, dear friends, Holy Mother Church is keenly aware of how the limits of human nature, Adam's fall, our personal sins, and the mundanities of this life all array themselves against our efforts to see Jesus in this way. What the great Apostle sang in his Hymn to Charity comes to mind in this regard:

We see now through a glass in a dark manner.

And because she knows that, if we are going to make good on our efforts to see Jesus through Mary's eyes, then we will have to renew our efforts to attain to a purity, a faith, a charity that is akin to hers. If we wish to see Jesus more clearly, if we want our vision of Jesus to more nearly approach, to some small degree, the vision of Jesus enjoyed by the Blessed Virgin Mary, then we are going to have to get holy.

Friends, the fact that the Holy Roman and Apostolic Church commands her children to strengthen their embrace of the Most Holy Rosary every October of every year indicates that there is a sense of urgency about her invitation and the manner with which she proffers this method of prayer.

And given the urgency expressed by a Mother so dear to us, we ask, why?

And entering into the house,
they found the Child with Mary His Mother,
and falling down they adored Him.

And to this, our honest and humble inquiry, our gentle Mater et Magistra replies in the voices of St. Bonaventure and other saints:

Jesus is never found except with and through Mary.

He seeks Jesus in vain who does not look for Him with Mary.

Friends, the Church of Jesus Christ—the Catholic Church, that is—calls her sons and daughters to gaze with Our Lady upon her Divine Son, to see Him through her eyes, firstly, because, as St. Alphonsus teaches:

> *Whoever wishes for the fruit must go to the tree; whoever wishes for Jesus must go to Mary; and whoever finds Mary certainly also finds Jesus.*

But secondly, she issues her annual, urgent invitation because Holy Mother Church is familiar with our weakness. And because she knows our weakness, she encourages us to appeal to the Blessed Virgin because the Blessed Virgin Mary is tender to all who call upon her with sincerity of heart.

Those who stumble in their efforts to see and understand Jesus Christ, and who appeal to her when they falter in the effort, will find in her a compassionate, motherly heart. As Richard of St. Lawrence bears witness:

> *The eyes of Mary are the eyes of a mother; and a mother not only keeps an eye on her child to see that he does not fall, but when it does fall, she picks it up again.*

Blessed are the clean of heart: for they shall see God.

So, on this Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, as we commemorate St. Francis of Assisi and begin our mini-catechesis on the Most Holy Rosary, on this day, as you come to receive upon your tongues and in your persons the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, I implore you to beg our Heavenly Father to grant you the grace to confess your sins and do penance; the grace of a clean heart, so that your eyes might become like Mary's eyes and be made to see Our Lord Jesus Christ as she sees Him; the grace to see, through His life-giving wounds, the image of the invisible God, the One Who is worthy to receive wisdom and honor, power and strength, forever and ever. Amen.

St. Francis of Assisi, pray for us.
Mary, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us.
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.