

Mary As Our Model

October is the month of the holy rosary and our attention turns to Mary, the Mother of Jesus. She is a model of true abandonment to God's will.

In his book, "Abandonment to Divine Providence," Father Jean Pierre de Caussade, S.J., explains Mary's spirituality: "Each faithful soul, continually moved by divine grace, turns automatically to the



new duty presented each hour by the power of God. Such were the hidden springs of Mary's life, the most perfect example of simple and absolute self-abandonment to the will of God ... under whatever form it manifested itself."

De Caussade's point is that the duties, attractions, and crosses of each moment are the "shadows which veil divine action." In other words, "God leads us through the day, step by step." In the supernatural order, the duties of each humdrum moment are an expression of God's will for us. In being

faithful to our duties we are not simply doing good works for God, as though separate from Him, rather we are allowing God to perform His works of love through us. De Caussade says, "sanctity consists in but one thing, fidelity to God's plan."

The simplicity of Mary's life is expressed in the word: FIAT, which is Latin for "Let it be done unto me according to Your will." ("Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuam.") Mary never tired of praising and loving the will of God. This does not mean that Mary was an activist. She was not driven to do good works for God; rather she did the work of God in quiet ways, through the duties of the present moment. She allowed God to enter her life. For her this was not a matter of theological knowledge, it was more a living experience of the Holy Spirit, an openness to God's action in the present moment.

To imitate Mary's spirituality it is important to accept God's unchanging love which enfolds and supports you every moment of the day as if you were the only person in the world. Trusting God's active presence in your life, you will gradually be able to shed

your fear of the future and your anxieties about the past.

The passive aspect of Fiat spirituality consists in accepting lovingly all that God sends moment by moment. Our lives are filled with many troubles and woes, but we can decide to accept them and work through them. The goal is not mere resignation, but cheerful acceptance. We can learn to be patient in suffering the very same trials which others might endure with resentment and irritation.

Granted, no one can be cheerful in all circumstances, but with God's grace, it is

possible to make great progress. Divine grace is Divine love in action and it is abundantly available." "Ask and you shall receive," says the Lord. Mary is our role model. She was and still is totally abandoned to God's love. Mary's sole purpose is to bring her son, Jesus Christ to you, and you to him. This is why we pray the rosary. The rosary is a Christ-centered devotion.

[For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, God Delights in You, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 E, 48th St., New York, N.Y. 10017.]