

'SEVEN LAST WORDS OF JESUS'

Reflection 2

'Woman, this is your son'

'Woman, this is your son.' 'Son, this is your mother.' In His agony on the cross, Jesus reaches out to comfort His mother and the beloved disciple. 'Woman this is your son.' He commended her to His disciple; she would be safe and cared for all her life. The disciple also would find strength and comfort in her care for him.

But there is more.. Jesus is forming a new family, the family of the Church. The beloved disciple represents the whole Church, born from the blood and water which flowed from His pierced side. Jesus commends the beloved disciple, and therefore us to the care of His mother; asking her to recognise us as her precious children. To us too Jesus says, 'behold your mother.' The disciple responded by taking Mary into his home.

How do we respond to such a precious gift?

Where is Mary's place in our hearts and lives?

Prayer

Hail Mary, full of grace,

The Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women,

And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

Pray for us sinners,

Now and at the hour of our death.

Amen



‘We call her mother, because she truly is, and thus she is now our mother in our time of need.’

This reflection is with reference to and with quotations from, ‘Seven Last Words,’ by Cardinal Basil Hume.