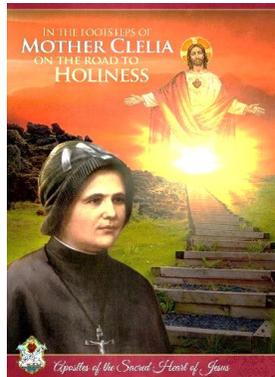




GFASC Holiness Reflection 6



Blessed Mother Clelia

A Woman Completely Abandoned to God's Will

Pope Francis (November 4, 2018 – Angelus)

“Yesterday, in the Basilica of Saint John Lateran, Mother Clelia Merloni was beatified. The Foundress of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was a woman wholly abandoned to God’s will, zealous in charity, patient in adversity, and heroic in forgiveness. Let us give thanks to God for the luminous evangelical witness of the new Blessed and let us follow her example of goodness and mercy. A round of applause for the new Blessed.”

The Calming of the Storm (Mark 4: 35-41)

On that day, as evening drew on, he said to them, “Let us cross to the other side.” Leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat just as he was. And other boats were with him. A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat, so that it was already filling up. Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion. They woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Quiet! Be still!” The wind ceased and there was great calm. Then

he asked them, “Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?” They were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?”

For Reflection

Life is not always kind to us. Sometimes storms and winds that pound us seem like obstacles in our path and endanger our very foundations: “Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it.” In those moments, we are like the **disciples**, fearful for our lives.

We forget that in the darkness **Jesus is at our side**, walking on the water, ready to calm our fears: “During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. ‘It is a ghost,’ they said, and they cried out in fear. At once [Jesus] spoke to them, ‘Take courage, it is I; **do not be afraid.**’”

The words of Jesus calm us, they give us hope, they raise up our downcast spirit. They remove that fear that often paralyzes us. We do not want to be afraid, even though we know that our hearts are often fearful. Our life is very **fragile**, a moment’s decision can change everything...

Words of Mother Clelia

“Jesus made me feel and understand that I have to rely on **his divine assistance**, that I have to ask Him for it with humility and confidence, and that He will not fail to help me with his grace. When He sees me ready for battle, He Himself will fight in me and for me.” *(Diary)*

“Whatever it costs, at whatever price, I want to belong totally to God without any restrictions or division. I feel that I will have to fight quite a bit, but that doesn’t bother me at all. It is necessary to wage battle for the glory of God; this will give me life. This battle will last

until death since I will never succeed in totally dying to myself, but be patient! With **divine assistance** I will have to face all the obstacles, but I cannot and must not expect a complete victory then and there. I need voluntary preparation of heart, seeking grace and the **divine Will** among my impressions, inclinations, and natural affections. Then, with his aid, I will root out my own ill-conceived preferences. From now on, I only want the glory of God and the salvation of souls. This will be my thought, my strength. With **divine assistance** nothing seems impossible to me.” *(Diary)*

Praying with Mother Clelia

“Leave me, O Jesus, Your Love: it is all that I want. Everything else for me is nothing. Even the very immortality of my soul would be nothing if I were deprived of Your Love. I would prefer to be annihilated from this moment on rather than lose the hope of being loved by You.



I want to love You with all the intensity of my heart,

loving nothing else but You, and loving all other things in You and for You with all my spirit, thinking about You, infinite truth, and how to please You, with all my soul, subjecting to **Your divine Will** my whole wretched self, my powers, my faculties, my passions, and using my interior and exterior senses according to the purpose that You desire; with all my strength, not sparing myself because of fatigue and bearing every sacrifice to carry out **Your will**, using all my strength for Your divine service.” *(Diary)*

TO PONDER

When you understand and are capable of obeying God and His Word, when you travel on the road the Holy Spirit indicates to you, little by little your heart, sentiments, and life change and you will be able to repeat Mary's words: Let your will be done in me.

- What is God's will for you? Are you able to obey God?
- Are you able to place your mind, heart, and strength at God's service and do His will in your daily life?

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“Lord, may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

