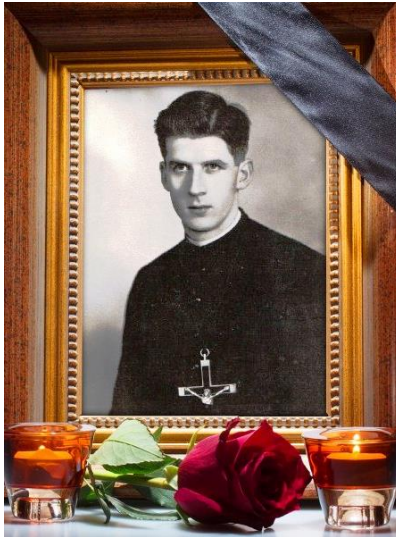


## THE MEDITATED ROSARY (FROM THE WRITINGS OF FR. MARIO BORZAGA, OMI)



### **Father Mario and Our Lady.**

Fr. Mario Borzaga, Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate, is born and dies under the sign of Mary. When he is born, his mother anxiously holds in her arms a small and fragile creature that does not give the impression of a safe entry into life. The family doctor tries to arouse in the disconsolate mother a sense of faith by urging her to see in her son not a human child but an angel who would fly straight to heaven. But the faith of the mother wants both; she prays with trust to Mary Help of Christians and Our Lady assures mama Ida that her son will grow up and also be a beloved son of Mary. When Mario takes the habit signifying his total belonging to God, his mother is still there. She herself made him the habit and gave him a statuette of Mary Help of Christians to remind her Mario, now in the flower of life, that Our Lady bent over him maternally from the first moments of his existence. His mother will not fail to make his love for Our Lady grow. When he can walk, he will be taken to the Marian Shrine of Piné, which stands elegantly and brightly in the woods on the hills overlooking the city of Trent.

His path towards the priesthood in the seminary of Trent is firm and serene. But here the sign of Mary appears again and leads him to a missionary institute where the members make a vow to offer themselves to Mary Immaculate, and here Mario deepens his love for Our Lady. His contemplative soul admires the Mother of Heaven “for her silence, faith, humility, naturalness in

practicing virtue, her goodness and purity.” He associates himself with the long line of artists who admire Mary as he contemplates a “mountain covered with snow rising into the sky” and bends down to adore with Mary Jesus in her womb. All this leads him to live in Mary not as an ordinary son but as Jesus and to be taken where she wants. When he arrives at the priesthood, the new reality elevates him to a higher level until he identifies with Mary. The priesthood has made him like her, the giver of Christ to the world and for this reason it is necessary to be “innocent and like a lily” like her. Here we have his most brilliant intuition of the reality of Mary when he writes that the priest must be the real presence of Mary on this earth: “Jesus remained in the Sacrament, but Our Lady did not remain. It is up to us to be and to have the heart of the one who generated Jesus in the world; to have her virtue and the fragrance of her purity, the strength of her humility, her constancy in pain, her doing the will of God.”

After only three years of priesthood, early in the month of May, the Blessed Virgin Mary assisted him, in an ordeal in the Laotian mountains, in the supreme moment of his sacrifice.

**Introduction:** *“It is useless to understand who Mary is in our lives, if we do not go before the Tabernacle of Jesus, to recite slowly the Hail Marys, meditating on the mysteries of the life of the Lord. Our Lady is known by loving and praying, like a treasure after having long searched for it. Why seek Jesus and Mary elsewhere, since they have done nothing but pray and suffer?”* (June 4, 1957).

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## *THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES*

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### **First mystery. The Annunciation.**

*“Hail, favored one”* Lk 1:28.

“The most beautiful image of the Annunciation: a mountain covered with snow piercing the sky. The white of the snow: the Madonna; the blue of the sky: The Angel.” (March 25, 1958)

“The Virgin had to have a revelation that assured her that she had conceived the Son of God in her womb, so that adoration and her role as Mother of God could begin.” (June 11, 1957).

“The Immaculate is the one who generates Christ for mankind; we who, through the priesthood, are made similar to Her, givers of Christ to the world, must imitate Her innocence and all that passes through Her soul, especially the immaculateness of believing in Christ and the innocence of any bitter observation and discussion with ourselves.” (February 11, 1957)

### **Second mystery: The Visit to St. Elizabeth, bearer of Grace.**

*“And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?”* Lk 1:43.

“Today is the feast of the Virgin Mary Mediatrix of All Graces. Every grace, we almost feel it, we sense that it is given to us by Jesus, but it passes through the hands of Our Lady. Virgin Mother, open your heart and place your hands over me, because I am a poor sinner.” (May 14, 1957).

“This morning, in meditation, I made a point of not accepting into my mind any thoughts that Our Lady could not even think of...” (March 20, 1957).

### **Third mystery: The Birth of Jesus.**

*“Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.”* Lk 2:19.

“I think that tomorrow I will make a beautiful meditation on the Motherhood of Mary. It is a subject that I like, and Our Lady fascinates me more and more, especially her silence, her faith, her humility, her naturalness in practicing virtue, her goodness, her purity.” (October 10, 1956).

“This morning, today being the Feast of the Motherhood of Mary, I wrote during the meditation that I want to live in Mary like Jesus in her womb and be carried by her wherever she wants. So, I tried to imitate her silence....” (October 11, 1956).

**Fourth mystery: Presentation of Jesus in the Temple.**

*“A sword will pierce your soul too.”* Lk 2:35.

“This morning I meditated on the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple: Jesus and Mary also observe useless laws, because they love; their love is great and therefore everything is worthy of importance in their eyes, provided it is the will of the Father.” (January 11, 1957).

“Whoever suffers must be understood and loved; if this ordinary person is called Mary, we stop, contemplate her, recognize the one who suffered immensely for us, and we decide to suffer with her. When I think of Our Lady of Sorrows, I cannot help but think of Mary's ‘sweetest’ pierced soul.” (April 12, 1957).

**Fifth mystery: Finding Jesus in the Temple.**

*“Why were you looking for me?”* Lk 2:49.

“This morning I meditated on finding Jesus in the temple. To seek Jesus is to find Jesus. Jesus is never absent, withdrawn from circulation, busy doing his business, because his business is our souls. Even if Jesus disappears to test our love, he is always with us to show us the path that leads to his hiding place and we will find him hidden in our hearts. ‘Look for me,’ said Jesus to St. Theresa. He will never leave us in the grip of loneliness.” (January 12, 1957)

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*THE LUMINOUS MYSTERIES*

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**First Mystery: The Baptism of Jesus.**

*“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”* ( Mt. 3, 17 )

“The story of the Church is also repeated in our story, in my story.... It is the story of those who love Christ and give their lives for Christ....; it is a marvelous epic of falls and triumphs, of pettiness and greatness... where the human and the divine are intermingled... in a continuous alternative of life and death, to give rise to the final Resurrection.”

“I am one of the Church, a soul of Christ, forever part of this human-divine epic. I'm not supposed to be a deserter, so I must fight. I must gather the faith and love of the martyrs.” (January 20, 1957)

## **Second Mystery: The Wedding at Cana**

*“The Mother of Jesus was there.... They have no more wine.... Do whatever he tells you.”*  
(Jn. 2: 3,5)

“The responsibility to participate in the work of Redemption is great, but we feel calmer and more secure if Our Lady is also there – the Immaculate and Sorrowful, the more She suffered and offered Him.”(February 21, 1957 )

“O sweet Queen of Heaven and my Mother, who brought me to Jesus and taught me to love him, tell me what I must do. I don't know where to bang my head: what is the will of your Divine Son for me and your will, O Queen of Missions? Tell me now, because I need to know. Heart of Jesus, if I have loved you, help me and enlighten me.” (February 22, 1957)

## **Third Mystery: The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God**

*“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near...Prepare the way of the Lord.”* (Mt 3:2)

“If Jesus assures me that even I, clothed in divine nature through grace, let myself be killed in order to bring my brothers and sisters closer to God, it is a sign that I am like Him....” (September 13, 1957)

“Every step of the missionary is a step of God’s feet on earth. So, autumn will never fall in their path.” (Foreword to the Diary)

“Only you, Jesus, know how many more steps we will take in the world. If you are not with us, they will be taken in vain. I want to identify myself with you. O Jesus! Love with my heart, I love with yours; speak with my tongue, O Jesus! Think with my mind, bless with my hands, walk with my feet, suffer with my limbs.” (May 21, 1957)

## **Fourth Mystery: The Transfiguration on Mount Tabor**

*“His face shone like the sun.... It is good that we are here....”* (Mt 17: 2,4)

“Light is born of Love and today I am in the light, therefore in Love. It’s always late, but every moment is good to reconvert and respond in the affirmative to the Guest.” (September 7, 1957)

*The village on the mountain – Kiukatian – is Fr. Mario’s “Tabor” and “Calvary”.*

“Here in the Kiukatian mountains I must play my last card for holiness. Here or nowhere else. It’s now or never. Maybe tomorrow it will be too late.... Today: be more holy than ever. I forget my past to be of God; I forget everything, except my sin, to be worthier of mercy before the Lord....” (December 7, 1958)

## **Fifth Mystery: Institution of the Eucharist**

“I say NO to myself, in the footsteps of Jesus, so that I may become like him... a bearer of grace, a little morsel of bread that souls come to eat to have God in their hearts.... I will die every day, drawing strength from that Bread.” (November 20, 1956)

“On a small altar, in the silence of the chapel... next to the quiet light of a lamp and two candles, this time the tremendous mystery of the Crucifixion and Death of my friend Jesus was renewed in my indifferent hands....” (May 8, 1957)

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### *THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES*

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#### **First mystery: The Agony of Jesus in Gethsemane.**

*“Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me.”* Lk 22:42.

“When we come before Jesus in the Eucharist, before the purity of Mary, we are fully aware of our own smallness and filthiness: we see, as a response to the beauty and goodness of the Divine Love and the maternal Love of Mary, all our black ingratitude, our cowardly mediocrity, our unworthy living in the house of the Father; we feel unworthy of entering into the presence of those two Hearts, of being able to kneel before them, while we feel that our place is outside in the dust of the road.” (June 4, 1957).

#### **Second mystery: The Scourging.**

*“He has borne the burden of our sufferings.”* Is 53:4)

“It's bad. Feast of the Virgin of Sorrows. I have not asked Mary for anything, perhaps she has given me something anyway. I don't love, she loves me. So, I feel small and sinful in her presence; I cannot resign myself to staying here, but I remain here anyway. Everything's against me, so I'm sad, very sad. I'm incapable of everything. I spend hours on the deckchair, busy doing nothing.” (March 20, 1957).

#### **Third mystery: Crowning with Thorns.**

*“Without beauty, without majesty.”* Is 53:2.

“Today I perhaps prayed one of the best rosaries of my life. I was meditating on Jesus in the garden, scourged, crowned with thorns, crucified, with the eyes of Our Lady, while the Angel announced to her: *Ave Maria gratia plena*. Last night, however, I fell asleep before finishing the rosary. So, for once, following Bernadette's advice, I fell asleep saying: Mother, Mother.” (January 4, 1957).

**Fourth mystery: “Jesus, laden with the cross, climbs Calvary.”**

*“He has borne the burden of our suffering.”* Is 53:4.

“It is unworthy for me as a priest to complain of pain – small and petty pain – when I shed the Blood of the Son of God on the altar for the Church of Christ, and I was satisfied by promising him love. Blood that has gushed forth from my hands, will I be afraid to touch it, will I be afraid to collect even a single drop? Blood that I generated as and with the Immaculate and Sorrowful Virgin, will I be afraid to make it circulate in my veins, purifying and restorative? No, I never want to be a parasite of the Altar! If Jesus gave me love, I must give him Love, if he gave me Blood, I must give him Blood.” (February 21, 1957).

**Fifth mystery: The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus on the Cross.**

*“By his wounds we are healed.”* Is 53:5.

“The Immaculate will make my soul like hers, so that the heart of her Son Jesus may rest more comfortably in it. The Immaculate Sorrowful Mater, that Woman who never sinned in life, will reduce to a minimum my offense against Jesus, so that my hands and heart may be like hers, worthy of Christ.” (February 19, 1957).

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*THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES*

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**First mystery: The Resurrection.**

*“If you have risen with Christ, seek what is above.”* Col 3:1.

“If He (Jesus) is my personal friend, I must know him very well, otherwise how can I love him? I know how I will do it. I will pray to the Virgin, his Mother and mine, so that she may teach me maternally to know and love him.... If ‘to me living is Christ’, every act of life is part of a plan, according to which Christ is built up in me and so it is no longer I who live, but He in me. And so, since He is in heaven, on earth and in every place, He is present in every person and in every event – If you seek Jesus in all things, Jesus will surely find you.” (June 12, 1957)

**Second mystery: The Ascension.**

*“Go out to the whole world.”* Mk 16:15.

“Tonight, fortunately, I went for a walk to my dear Lady of Sorrows of Cuceglio, probably for the last time. Dear Madonnina Addolorata, we will not see each other again here on this hill; we will see each other again on the roads of the world. I will find you again, and you will still be strength

and courage for the journey as you have been this evening: a true source of fresh water.” (June 17, 1957).

**Third mystery: The Descent of the Holy Spirit.**

*“When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you to the whole truth.”* Jn 16:13.

“The Apostles worked miracles, but who prevents us from renewing the miracle of love, of love for everything that hurts us, which is not our will but the will of God. The Blessed Virgin also loved what was not her will and her sword. It makes us feel the sword to see Love misunderstood, betrayed, escaped, crucified, by all, even by ourselves: a kind of pain, not even suffered by Our Lady.’ (January 6, 1958).

**Fourth mystery: The Assumption into Heaven.**

*“My soul magnifies the Lord.”* Lk 1:46.

“I want Our Lady to be my Mother, to carry me in her womb.... Jesus remains in the Holy Sacrament, but Our Lady did not remain: it is for us to be and to have the Heart of the one who generated Jesus in the world: to be His virtue and the perfume of His purity, the strength of His humility, His constancy in pain, His doing the will of God.” (March 20, 1958).

**Fifth mystery: Mary Queen.**

*“From now on, all generations will call me blessed.”* Lk 1:48.

“I was sorry to find the word ‘sinners’ in every Hail Mary as the only definition of us his children. That we can tell her once, twice, is fine, but fifty times, ‘... *pray for us sinners*’, I could not understand how, when I became a great saint, I could have defended the truth of a hammering of ‘... *pray for us sinners*...’. We are nothing more than sinners: this touches my pride, but it is so, sinner and nothing else, even when the Love in me has reached a high degree: a sinner, always a sinner, in need as ever of Our Lady’s help.” (November 23, 1956).