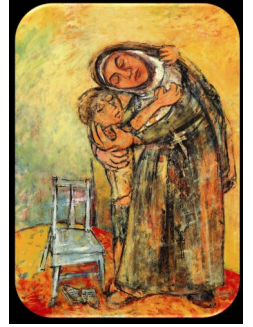


# CONVERSATIONS WITH MARY

## **THE VIRTUE OF CHARITY - PART 2**

Mary drew friends from all walks of life and different faiths. Mrs Joanna Barr-Smith became a dear friend and paid for the marble top of Mary's tomb. She and her husband helped the Sisters in many ways.

Dr Benson, a Presbyterian, gave his services to the Sisters free, and a fountain in Kensington attests to his generous care. When he died leaving a wife and young family, Mary made sure they were cared for. Two Jewish men, Messrs Solomon and Goldstein, generously supported the Sisters and their work. She had many friends among the titled men and women in Scotland and England. She was also drawn to those seen as criminals. Fagan, a prisoner due for execution, was befriended by her, to the point of requesting to be present when he was hanged. This was refused. Scotch Bella, an alcoholic, the underprivileged, prostitutes, ragged children were all drawn to her, recognising her love and compassion for them as children of God. A story is told of a shopkeeper who had a picture of Mary in his window. When Sisters wanted to buy it, he explained how Mary had helped his family when down and out, to set up his business, explaining he was not a Catholic. He would NEVER sell it!



John Maitland

Used with permission.

***Am I like Mary willing to help all regardless of faith, culture, age, and circumstances?***

***Do I welcome newcomers, especially from another culture, to my Church?***

***Have I in any way helped refugees, asylum seekers and the homeless? If not in a practical way, do I pray for them?***

***Have I volunteered with a group that works for others—knitting, visiting, serving food etc***

***Do I know my neighbours?***

### **SOME SILENCE TO REFLECT ON MY OWN LIFE**

Mary looked to the motive beyond the action and unless she had strong evidence to the contrary she presumed that people acted from good motives according to their lights *Yet she does feel the need to forgive some of the priests:*

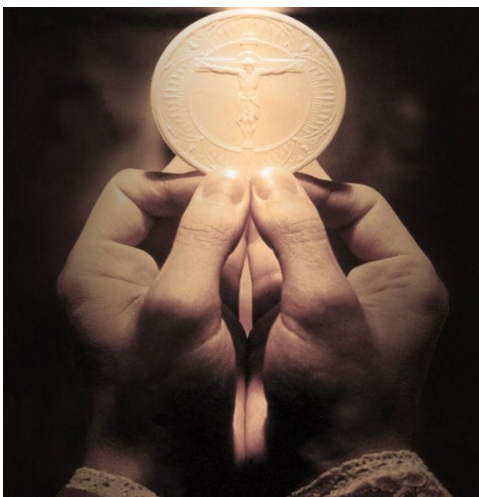
*"...Our poor dear Sisters feel that they are in the hands of bitter enemies instead of those of loved pastors. The poor dear gentlemen, from my heart I forgive them everything, but grieve to think that I have seen what I have seen or heard what I have heard" To Fr Woods 14/10/71*

In his book Walking the Way of Jesus, Bishop James Cuskelly writes: *Of all those whose writings I have read, she is the only one who has written: I have through God's wise permission, at present enemies...but they are loved enemies.'*

Written during her time of excommunication.

### **WHAT IS THE SOURCE AND STRENGTH OF HER ABILITY TO FORGIVE?**

**ENDLESS LOVE:** *Australian Prayers, Bruce Prewer. Used with permission, Lutheran Church Australia*



We thank you God, through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
For the assurance of forgiveness and the promise of renewal.  
At morning noon and night you are mercy and love.  
You are compassion, Your love never ends.  
You are our hope. Your love never ends.  
You are our inspiration. Your love never ends.  
You are joy and peace. Your love never ends.  
At morning noon and night, you are mercy and love,  
Holy is your name above all names; and we are grateful.  
We pray this through Jesus Christ our saviour and our brother.

**INTERCESSIONS OF YOUR CHOICE.**

**PRAY SLOWLY: OUR FATHER.**