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## A Mother

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## A Mother

Jesus has a mother, as each of us has a mother. We are always daughters and sons of our mothers and fathers, no matter what our age or present connection with our parents. We did not create ourselves. We were born. Our lives are now in our own hands, although we know that we must have been sufficiently cared for in the early part of our lives for us to have become the persons we are now.

Jesus, as God, did choose of whom to be born, and when and where to be born. But he was born as we were born – in need of everything, capable of nothing except to express needs and to be nurtured. Having a mother was God's commitment to becoming completely one with us in our humanity. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is the guarantee and the prime witness for us that Jesus is fully human.

Jesus still has a mother. Jesus, in his Risen body, is still the son of Mary, though he is also God, creator of all human beings and of all else that exists. Jesus is outside of time, and so is his mother. Some of us have parents who are now outside of time, but we remain within the limitations of our very time-centered lives. The bonds of love we have and can have with Jesus and his mother are of a different kind than the relationships we have with our parents, whether they are living or deceased.

All love is of God, whether it be between parents and children, friends, those for whom we have some responsibility, or those with whom we interact in passing. The care that the mother of Jesus has for us is another of the many manifestations of God's love for us. We have been invited, enabled, and chosen to be brothers and sisters of Jesus. As such, we are the subjects not only of Jesus' personal love for each of us, but of the mother of Jesus as well.

When we enter the home of a friend, his or her mother might lavish attention on us. Our friend is certainly not jealous, but understands well the expansive love of "mom" that reaches out to her children's friends. Jesus loves his mother, and is pleased when we let her, and ask her at times, to be mother to us.

We can ask God for help at any time, and should; "Ask and you shall receive." We can ask the mother of Jesus too, just as we can ask help from one another. The ultimate source of all goodness is the same God, who made us in his image to be social, interactive, and sharing all we have and are in love. So we are welcome to receive from Mary,

the mother of Jesus, help with praying, and help with every human concern of ours that a mother might respond to at one time or another.

Mary continues mothering the brothers and sisters of Jesus by anticipating our needs, and does for us much of what we cannot yet do for ourselves, just as our parents and parent-figures have done or do for us. Much of this love is hidden from our consciousness, but affects us positively nonetheless. If we would like to experience the qualities of this relationship with Jesus' mother, we have only to ask her directly, and attend to the results, just as we should do when we ask God for anything – expect and notice the changes for the better that occur within us and about us.

The power of all love is never by coercion, but is always a free gift. Who am I to refuse any of God's powerful love available to me from his mother, or mine, or perhaps, a friend's?