



# NEWSLETTER



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### MAY 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 <b>MOTHERS DAY</b>	12 <b>MEETING CALDWELL 7:00 PM</b>	13 <b>OUR LADY OF FATIMA</b>	14	15	16	17 <b>ARMED FORCES DAY</b>
18 <b>FALLOUT CAMERON 10:00 AM</b>	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 <b>FESTIVAL ST. ANN SOMERVILLE</b>	26 <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>	27	28	29	30	31

### NEWS

We wish to thank everyone who helped with our Turkey Shoot again this year. Things got off to a slow start due to the weather, but turned out very well. We especially want to thank Josiah and Beverly for the use of their facilities for this fundraiser.

Our next meeting is in Caldwell on May 12. The meal will be at 7:00 pm, with the meeting after.

We have again been asked to fallout for the "Mary's Fest" to be held at St. Monica parish in Cameron, on Sunday, May 18. Mass is at 10:00 am, and we need to be there at 9:30 am.

St. Ann's in Somerville is having their annual Festival on May 25. They will have food, music, live and silent auction, and a raffle.

### A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

*Blessing prayer for Mother's Day*

*God of Love, listen to this prayer.*

*God of Holy People, of Sarah, Ruth, and Rebekah; God of holy Elizabeth, mother of John, of holy Mary, Mother of Jesus, bend down Your ear to this request and bless the women of our families.*

*Bless them with the strength of Your spirit, they who have taught our children how to stand and walk.*

*Bless them with the melody of Your love, they who have shared how to speak, how to sing and how to pray to You.*

*Bless them with a place at Your eternal dinner table, they who have fed and nurtured the lives that were helpless but embraced in their love.*

*Bless the women of our families today, now, in this lifetime, with good things, with health.*

*Bless them with joy, love, laughter, and pride in our children and surround them with many good friends.*

*May the women who cared for young life, be carried one day to Your divine embrace: there, for all eternity, to rejoice with family and friends.*

*This blessing and all grace, we pray, descend upon the women of our families: in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

*Edward Hays, prayers for the Domestic Church*

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## Roots of Marian Devotion Go Back to Old Testament

by [Scott Hahn](#)

"The glories we honor in Mary are merely her own reflections of God's glory," says the author of books such as "Rome Sweet Home" and "Hail, Holy Queen." Here, the one-time Presbyterian minister spells out his ideas.

**Q:** Why do you say that Catholics should love Mary a lot more than they do?

**Hahn:** Because God does! And he wants us to love her as much as he does.

At the time of the annunciation, the angel Gabriel prophesied that all generations would call Mary blessed. In our generation, we need to fulfill that prophesy. We need to call her blessed. We need to honor her — again, because God did.

Jesus himself, as a faithful Jew, kept the Fourth Commandment and honored his mother. Since Christ is our brother, she is our mother too. Indeed, at the end of John's Gospel, Jesus named her as the mother of all of us beloved disciples. So we too have a duty to honor her.

If we look back into the biblical history of ancient Israel, we discover that the Chosen People always paid homage not only to their king, but also to the mother of the king. The "gebirah," the queen mother, loomed large in the affections of Israelites. And the evangelists are very much aware of this.

In Matthew's Gospel especially, we find Jesus portrayed as the royal Son of David and Mary as queen mother. The Wise Men, for example, traveled far to find the Child King with his mother.

We find the mother of the Son of David portrayed in a similar way in the Book of Revelation, Chapter 12. There she is shown to be crowned with 12 stars, for the 12 tribes of Israel. The New Testament writers, you see, were careful to show us Mary's important place in the kingdom, and how we should love and honor her.

In my personal life, I've found the Blessed Mother to be a great intercessor, as she was at the wedding feast in Cana.

Why should we love Mary more? Because of God's grace — she exemplifies it! Because of God's Word — she teaches it! And because she is God's masterpiece. The Scriptures provide too many reasons to love her; I couldn't list them in so short a space.

**Q:** How does Mary help us to understand the mystery of Christmas?

**Hahn:** Well, it's impossible for us to imagine the Christmas story without her. Her consent, her "yes," made that day possible. When God became man, he was born of a woman, born under the law. Christ is at the center of Christmas, but he chose not to be alone at the center. As a baby, he needed a mother to hold him. If we choose to ignore the mother, we can't see the Child.

In the stories leading up to Christmas, we encounter Mary as the model disciple. God found her humility irresistible, and we have to imitate her. God empowered her to love his Son as much as he deserves to be loved. And so we imitate her in that as well. Mary helps us to understand the mystery of Christmas because she received the greatest Christmas present ever, and she gave it to the world, just as we should.

**Q:** Why do you most converts to Catholicism have such an intense devotion to the Blessed Virgin?

**Hahn:** I can only speak for myself. I discovered the Catholic Church as not only the family of God, but as my family too. Mary is not only the mother of Jesus, but my mother too.

That's a wonderful discovery to make so late in one's life. So maybe we're making up for lost time! Or maybe we have a special affection for the practices that are distinctive to the ancient Christian faith — the practices that we missed in our own upbringing.

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