

Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

Discipleship a New Relationship with God Thirty-fourth Week in Ordinary Time
Monday, November 21, 2016 8:15 AM Rev 14:1-3, 4b-5; **Mt 12:46-50**
Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (We are also to be mother to one another and to bring new life and to bear the life of Christ into the world.)

Some people believe that this is a rather odd story about Jesus neglecting, apparently, his mother and his relatives.

But **St. Augustine** says that it is the teaching that **Mary** was great not in her being physical mother to Jesus, which she was, but **her actual greatness is being a disciple**, that she was the first of the disciples and the greatest follower of Jesus, because **she did the will of the Father in all things**. And so **she was definitely mother but also sister and brother to Jesus**.

But so are we. Augustine goes on to argue that the Church is our mother, but we are members of the Church so **we are also to be mother to one another and to bring new life and to bear the life of Christ into the world**. This is the **mission of the Church**. And this is the mission of all of its members who belong then to the whole Christ. **It is the whole Christ that gathers at the Eucharist offering really itself, all its members, to the Father**, head and members, the whole Christ.

So this gospel then is really a way of elevating the very idea of **discipleship** and showing that it is not really simply service, but it is **a new relationship with God**. And it's a relationship **we all enjoy through Baptism**.