

Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

Mary, Our Mother Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church Monday, June 10,
2019 **Acts 1:12-14; Jn 19:25-34** (Mary is concerned about all her children, however old
we get. We need to let her care for us, to let her be our mother.)

So today we are celebrating the memorial of **Mary as Mother of the Church**. Sometimes we forget that **she was one of Jesus' disciples**; that's why we read from the Acts of the Apostles, how **she was gathered with the apostles in the upper room** with some of the other women who followed Jesus. Some are mentioned here: "his mother's sister," whoever that was, "Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene," but there are other women as well.

But in the Acts of the Apostles it mentions his brothers. Now we don't know exactly what is meant by that. Does it mean other disciples? Could. Family? Could. But the point is on the cross **Jesus entrusted Mary to his beloved disciple** there was a real special relationship between Jesus and the beloved disciple whom we usually call John, although we don't actually know his name. And **Jesus gave his mother to him and vice versa, him to his mother, because they were probably his two dearest friends in a very human way.**

Now the Church has understood this in time as beginning **an intimate relationship between Mary and every disciple**, that God indeed desires his disciples to have this motherly care, and it is not necessarily the motherly care of infants, but rather the motherly care of adults. Mothers continue to care for their children no matter how old they get, as we know. But of course the type of care differs. **Mary is concerned about all her children, however old we get.** We need to appreciate that and to take advantage of it, **to let her care for us, to let her be our mother.**