



Circular Letter of H.L. Mgr. Mario Grech Bishop of Gozo

The Wednesdays of Saint Mary

To the Reverend Archpriests and Parish Priests, Rectors of Churches, Religious Superiors, Consecrated Persons and Lay Catholics.

Dear Brethren,

The month of May is a precious one for us, not only because in it we continue to live the happy time of Easter that leads to the Solemnity of Pentecost, but also because in it we turn in a particular way to the Virgin Mary.

The Wednesdays of Saint Mary that will commence this coming Wednesday, 6th May, are a most useful way for our Mother to help us live her Son's Easter in our daily life, looking forward to the glory that awaits us, that with which the Handmaid of the Lord is already endowed.

Therefore I encourage you to make this *appointment* every Wednesday with Our Lady and visit her in some church dedicated to her, particularly in Ta' Pinu Sanctuary. It will be an *appointment for the family* where we take our little ones at the feet of Mary – there is no better school for our children to realise that they have always the love of Jesus and the protection of Mary in their lives! We can carry in our hearts our sick and elderly brethren who cannot physically make this pilgrimage, while we deliver our fervent prayers for families and for peace in the world, especially in those countries where there is poverty, injustice and war.

Under the protection of Our Lady we can taste the joy of Easter by receiving the gift of forgiveness in the Sacrament of Confession, and the enlightenment of the Word of God and the Eucharistic bread in the celebration of Mass. In the Sanctuary of Ta' Pinu, the confessors have the special faculty of forgiving also the reserved sins.

Apart from this, the pilgrimage we make to the Sanctuary could teach us that to be true disciples of Christ it is necessary to move away from the cotton wool of comfort and our indifferent egoism so that, like the Virgin Mary, we *hasten* to serve our neighbour.

I encourage our families and communities to remember our brethren the immigrants in our daily recitation of the Rosary and beseech the Lord, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, to help the rulers of the world to find solutions enlightened by love and mercy towards every person living on earth.

Given from the Bishop's Curia. Victoria, today, 29th April, 2015, feast of Saint Catherine of Siena, Patron of Europe.

✠ Mario Grech
Bishop of Gozo

Mgr. Saviour Debrincat
Chancellor