6.

Mary is Our Model

SRL & BAGAMOYO GENERAL CHAPTER

- We are dedicated to the Holy Spirit, author of all holiness and “source of the apostolic spirit”. We place ourselves under the protection of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, who was filled beyond measure by the same Spirit “with the fullness of holiness and apostolic zeal” (SRL 6). Mary is our model of willing obedience and of faithfulness. We offer her veneration and prayer so that we may, as she did, welcome within us the Holy Spirit who dwelt in her Immaculate Heart (SRL 89).

- We take Mary as our model in creating our identity, she who “meditated these things in her heart...” (Bagamoyo 2:2)

PRAYER
Father of light, from whom every gift comes, send your Spirit into our lives.

With the power of the mighty wind, and by the flame of your wisdom, open the horizons of our minds.

Loosen our tongues to sing your praise in words beyond the power of speech,

For without your Spirit we could never raise our voice in words of peace,

Or announce the truth that Jesus is Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

(12: 46-50)

Jesus was still talking to the people when his mother and brothers arrived. They stood outside, asking to speak with him. So one of the people there said to him, “Look, your mother and brothers are standing outside, and they want to speak with you.” Jesus answered, “Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?” Then he pointed to his disciples and said, “Look! Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does what my Father in Heaven wants him to do is my brother, my sister, and my mother.”
FRANCIS LIBERMAN

It is not words that fill our souls with divine love and which keep us united in this holy love, but the Spirit of our Lord, who lives in us and who wants to operate everything in us. It is enough for me to give your soul without ceasing to Jesus Christ our Lord and the very holy Virgin our good Mother, so that the divine Spirit be the absolute master in you, that he fill you and that he unite you to Jesus and Mary, with the same union, although less perfect, with the very holy love with which he united them together. It would be a very great sweet, and admirable thing if the Holy Spirit accomplishes in your souls this very holy union with Jesus and Mary, and with Mary in Jesus. May Jesus live in us as he lived in Mary; may we be united to Mary as she had been united with Jesus, in a union of desire, in a union of love, a union of will, in a union of vision. May we be blind, lost and annihilated in ourselves and for ourselves, and may the Spirit of Jesus be all occupation, all movement and all life in us, in order to unite us and make us one thing with him in Mary, by Mary, and with Mary.

Letter to a clergyman January 19, 1840.
PRAYER

Most Holy Mother of God,

We pray to you as mother of the Church, mother of all Christians who suffer.

We beg you, through your ardent intercession, to bring down this wall, the walls of our hearts, and all the walls that generate hatred, violence, fear, and indifference between people and between nations.

You who crushed the ancient Serpent by your Fiat, gather and unite us under your virginal cloak, protect us from all evil and open forever in our lives the gate of Hope.

Bring to birth in us and in our world the civilization of Love that sprang forth from the Cross and Resurrection of your divine Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns forever. Amen.

* This prayer was inspired by the Icon of the Mother of the Church written on the separation wall between Jerusalem and Bethlehem.