

COMMENTARY

A MARIAN YEAR. There is an instructive rightness in the tradition which gives to certain seasons of the year their special pieties, and it needs no great argument to associate the month of May with the name of Mary—the new life of nature with the virgin Mother of the Redeemer of men. And this year of grace has been dedicated by the Church to the honour and praise of Our Lady, and this month of May should mark a deeper realization of what such a dedication must mean.

The titles which Catholic devotion has given to Mary are a litany of joy, and they must be seen as the honouring of the cause of all joy. They are more than the exuberant reminders of an age of faith more spontaneous than our own: their meaning remains to emphasize the providential place of Mary in the economy of man's salvation.

And of all the names that Mary bears, that of 'Queen of Peace' is perhaps the one that our age has most need to recall. Mary is the figure of peace because her will is wholly with God, just as she is the 'seat of wisdom' because in her humility she is supremely wise. At a time when peace is so passionately longed for—but too often only because of the devastation of fear, her vocation stands as a reproach to those who are worldly wise. And it has its meaning even to those who cannot acknowledge her place in Christian tradition. For what she achieved is in the end what all men must learn to achieve in their measure, unless they choose what pride must bring: the literal fulfilment of Christ's words, 'without me you can do nothing', the 'no thing' of a hydrogen bomb, the ungoverned use of man's skill to create a nullity of life and of all we know by the name of civilization.

May the naming of Mary in this year of her honouring reach out to the whole world, for her motherhood was the chosen instrument of God's wisdom for man's redemption. And her acceptance, 'let it be unto me according to thy word', is the type of every man's hope of happiness and peace.