

**Fr. Andrzej A. Napiórkowski OSPPE, *Mary Mother of Life*, 2nd edition, Wydawnictwo Amazon, Printed in USA, Monee (Illinois) 2024, 111 pages (ISBN–9798871026335; Library of Congress Control Number: 2018675309)**

*Mary Mother of Life* by Fr. Andrzej Napiórkowski is a profound and thoughtfully crafted theological reflection on the role and significance of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, particularly focusing on the title „Mother of Life”. The Author embarks on a nuanced exploration of the multifaceted meanings encapsulated in this title. At a time when spiritual reflection and theological inquiry are increasin-

gly relevant, this book provides valuable insights into the pivotal role of Mary in the life of believers.

Mary holds a central place in Christian beliefs, and Her various titles reflect different aspects of Her spiritual motherhood. „Mother of Life” is one of the most evocative titles, subtly intertwining numerous theological threads: from Mary’s role in the Divine plan of salvation to Her symbolic representations „when Mary is seen as a pattern of motherhood, care and maternal love”. Father Napiórkowski’s work is not just a theological analysis but an invitation to personal reflection on how Mary influences our spiritual and daily lives. This aspect, which is particularly emphasised in the last chapter, demonstrates the irreplaceable role of Mary in the Jasna Góra Image and Her influence on the multitudes of pilgrims who come to Her throne every year. A unique opportunity to emphasise the role of Mary as Protector and Mother of the People of God can be seen in the initiative organised on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of the Coronation of the Icon of Our Lady. The faithful no longer brought diamond dresses as gifts, but other unique votive offerings. These were special spiritual commitments written on the back of their own photographs, from which a new „Living crown” was made (p. 99).

The main message of the publication is to draw attention to the title of Mary as Mother of Life in four guises/meanings. For the reason that Mary is the Mother of Jesus of Nazareth, we can present Her in a historical and biblical sense. Another is the christological sense. This is directly linked to the title given to the Blessed Virgin Mary as Theotokos, which teaches us that Mary is the Mother of Jesus who is both God and Man. As Father Napiórkowski underlines – „Since Jesus Christi is the Savior and the Source of Eternal Life, Mary is the Mother of Divine Life”. The third meaning discusses the salvific sense and shows the Holy Virgin as the Sponse of the Holy Spirit who both intercedes and mediates for us and carries us into the abundance of supernatural life. The last sense – the symbolic one - emphasises Her maternal care and sets an example of faith and obedience to God.

The book consists of nine chapters. The first discusses the issue of Holy Trinity and Mary. At the Beginning of Creation. In the second chapter, the reader can find references to Mary’s relationship with the Holy Spirit describing the Charismatic Spiritual Life. The next conference (III) indicates to the theme of The Divine Parenthood and Our Mother Bringing Life. We can then read about the events in the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary, where chapter four shows the life of the Holy Family in Nazareth and it’s reference to our existence, while chapter five deals with the mystery of the Assumption of the Mother of God. Conference no 6 exemplifies correlation between The Blessed Virgin Mary and the Church, whilst the issue Mediatrix of Christ’s Life is submitted in chapter seven. The penultimate chapter justifies our attitude of honoring Mary as the Mother of Life, while in the final chapter the example of functioning the Shrine of Our Lady of Częstochowa is exposed and thanks to it we can recognize and title Her The Mother of Life from Jasna Góra.

Father Andrzej Napiórkowski's *Mary Mother of Life* offers a comprehensive and in-depth study of Mary that will captivate theologians, clergy, and laypeople seeking a deeper understanding of Mary's role in Christian spirituality. The book is written in an accessible style, making it approachable for a wide audience. The concise yet rich chapters provide ample opportunity for reflection on the various aspects of life that Mary symbolizes and supports.

*Mary Mother of Life* by Fr. Andrzej Napiórkowski is a valuable addition to theological literature, offering a well-rounded and thoughtful exploration of the diverse meanings behind the title „Mother of Life.” By combining deep theological insight with an accessible writing style and our daily existence, the Author creates a work that can serve as a significant source of inspiration for those deeply engaged in theological studies as well as for those beginning their spiritual journey. This book is sure to enrich the spiritual lives of its readers and encourage deeper reflection on the role of Mary Mother of Life in their faith.

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