

*Did you know . . .*

## **Mary, Undoer of Knots**

The devotion to Mary Undoer of Knots is more than 300 years old and to one of which Pope Francis has a special devotion. While studying in Germany in the 1980s, he discovered this devotion at the Church of St. Peter am Perlach in Augsburg where there is a painting from about 1700, author unknown, which depicts Mary standing on the crescent moon crushing the head of the serpent, Satan. She holds a long ribbon untying a large knot, one of several on the ribbon.

It was originally inspired by a meditation of St. Irenaeus based on the parallel made by St. Paul between Adam and Christ, while St. Irenaeus made a comparison between Eve and Mary: “Eve by her disobedience, tied the knot of disgrace for the human race; whereas Mary, by her obedience, undid it.”

This devotion had a profound impact on the devotional life of Pope Francis. As Archbishop of Buenos Aires, he encouraged the devotion to Our Lady, Undoer of Knots, which became very popular throughout Argentina and Brazil.

What are these knots? They are the problems and struggles we face for which we do not see any solution...knots of family discord, disrespect, violence, deep hurts, knots of addiction, depression, unemployment and such...knots of our life. And Mary hurries to rescue us, praying for each one of us to her son, Jesus.

May Mary, Undoer of Knots bless you today and forever.

### **Pope Francis' Prayer to Mary Undoer of Knots**

*Through your grace,  
your intercession,  
and your example,  
deliver us from all evil,  
Our Lady, and untie  
the knots that  
prevent us from being  
united with God,  
so that we, free  
from sin and error,  
may find him in all things  
may have our hearts  
placed in him  
and may serve him always  
in our brothers and sisters.*

*Judy Pearson*

