

<i>Project Title</i>	"Litany of Loreto"
<i>Image Title</i>	"Mater Creatoris– Mother of our Creator"
<i>Medium</i>	Iris giclee print on Arches Cold Press
<i>Size example</i>	" Mater Creatoris– Mother of our Creator " 30" x 30" unframed
<i>Artist</i>	Lisa A. Johnston
<i>Style</i>	Montage Photography
<i>Synopsis</i>	This image is part of a series currently in progress and is a visual study on the names given to Mary the mother of Jesus in the "Litany of Loreto", a solemn litany of titles sung or prayed in honour of the Virgin Mary. The imagery is concerned with examining these <i>titles</i> through contemporary photographic technique which is supplied heavily with the vigorous usage of religious and poetic literary symbolism and iconography.

*Particular Image Background
And Reference Notes*

This particular image "Mater Creatoris" is a visual interpretation of this title and theme. As reference points for understanding the imagery the following quotations are invited:



"This is a title which, of all others, we should have thought it impossible for any creature to possess. At first sight we might be tempted to say that it throws into confusion our primary ideas of the Creator and the creature, the Eternal and the temporal, the Self-subsisting and the dependent; and yet on further consideration we shall see we cannot refuse the title to Mary without denying the Divine Incarnation – that is, the great and fundamental truth of revelation, that God became man." -- *John Henry Cardinal Neuman*

"Therefore, we love and honor Mary because she is the Mother of God, Mother of Jesus; and loving her in her relation to God, our devotion to her only makes our love for God, for Jesus, deeper and more tender. "*Mater Dei, Mater Creatoris, "Mother of God, Mother of Our Creator, we invoke her in the These two titles which seem to be contradictory, actually express a unique synthesis because Mary, although a creature, is really the Mother of her Creator, the Mother of God's Son to whom she has given a human body: the fruit of her flesh and blood is the Son of God in whom and ,whom all things were created. Here we understand more ever how Mary's dignity reaches the threshold of the infinite." -- Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalene OCD*

"He who created me has deigned to dwell in my womb" [Sirach 24].

Not alone to shepherds or in caves
No burning cherub or Creator's slave
But one of us, Mater Creatoris

– Golphatha's Mary, *Pavel Chichikov*

"Bud forth a Saviour, Earth! fulfill
Thy first of functions, ever new !
Balm-dropping heaven, for aye distil
Thy grace like manna or like dew !
"To us, this day, a Child is born."
Heaven knows not mere historic facts:
Celestial mysteries, night and morn,
Live on in ever-present Acts.
Calvary's dread Victim in the skies
On God's great altar rests even now :
The Pentecostal glory lies
For ever round the Church's brow.
From Son and Father, He, the Lord
Of Love and Life, proceeds always:

Upon the first creative word
 Creation, trembling, hangs for aye.
 Nor less ineffably renewed
 Than when on earth the tie began,
 Is that mysterious Motherhood
 Which re-creates the worlds and man."

— Mater Creatoris, *Aubrey De Vere*

"O, how marvelous it is! She acts as a mediatrix between the loftiness of God and the lowliness of the flesh, and becomes Mother of the Creator." - Andrew of Crete, Homily 1 on Mary's Nativity

"Embracing God's salvific will with a full heart and impeded by no sin, she devoted herself totally as a handmaid of the Lord to the person and work of her Son, under Him and with Him, by the grace of almighty God, serving the mystery of redemption. Rightly therefore the holy Fathers see her as used by God not merely in a passive way, but as freely cooperating in the work of human salvation through faith and obedience." – [*Lumen Gentium*]

"This sublime and singular privilege of the Blessed Virgin, together with her most excellent innocence, purity, holiness and freedom from every stain of sin, as well as the unspeakable abundance and greatness of all heavenly graces, virtues and privileges -- these the Fathers beheld in that ark of Noah, which was built by divine command and escaped entirely safe and sound from the common shipwreck of the whole world; in the ladder which Jacob saw reaching from the earth to heaven, by whose rungs the angels of God ascended and descended, and on whose top the Lord himself leaned' in that bush which Moses saw in the holy place burning on all sides, which was not consumed or injured in any way but grew green and blossomed beautifully; in that impregnable tower before the enemy, from which hung a thousand bucklers and all the armor of the strong; in that garden enclosed on all sides, which cannot be violated or corrupted by any deceitful plots; as in that resplendent city of God, which has its foundations on the holy mountains; in that most august temple of God, which, radiant with divine splendors, is full of the glory of God; and in very many other biblical types of this kind. In such allusions the Fathers taught that the exalted dignity of the Mother of God, her spotless innocence and her sanctity unstained by any fault, had been prophesied in a wonderful manner." -- Pope Pius IX *Ineffabilis Deus*

Visual Symbols

Contained within this image are many symbolisms including:

- **Red Rose Petals** – Red represents the ardent love with which the heart of Mary was always inflamed towards God. The red signifies the mortification of her flesh and her compassion for the world. Red also symbolizes the blood of the cross which she was to stand under. The rose is the queen of wreath-flowers and ornamental expression of beauty. There are three petals representing the Holy Trinity.
- **Tulip** - A symbol of purity, perfection, mercy and majesty. Along with the meaning of the rose in the west, the tulip was a symbol of perfect love in ancient Persia. It was the emblem of the rulers of the Ottoman empire and of Constantinople, their capital city. Legend tells of a Persian youth, named Ferhad, who fell in love with a young woman named Shirin. She did not reciprocate his feelings for her, so he went out into the desert to die, presumably from a broken heart. As his heart ached, his tears fell into the sand and turned into beautiful tulips. Amongst the Persians, the tulip is an offering a young man makes to his beloved.
- **Seed Pods** - Milk seed pods and flower montaged into the shape of a vessel. The imagery of seed have multiple meanings which include:
 - The creation of the World through the power of the Creator.
 - The seed of the Holy Spirit
 - Seed in the line of Abraham

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