

Midway between these two extremes stands the truth. Nature and person are distinct in man. The human nature of Christ was created without its proper human nature. And since in God the divine Persons are one in nature or essence, the two natures are united in the Incarnation through being terminated by one and the same person, the divine Person of the Son of God.

At Bethlehem a truth was made known which man, left to himself, could never have discovered. But God has so disposed the intimation of that truth, that man aided by divine illumination, might be able to receive it according to his nature, that is, in a rational way. Reason saw evidence not of the mystery but of the fact that God has spoken it. Faith and reason are both gifts of God. Far from being opposed in matters supernatural, neither can operate without the other. Faith works to perfect reason, and reason has no access to the supernatural but through faith.

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## MOTHER OF MERCY

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*EDWARD M. VAHEY, O.P.*

The silken wings of angels waft above,  
The incense of our Ave to the throne  
Of Mary, Mother of all grace and love,  
Whose tender heart has never spurned our moan.

Unhappy children of an erring Eve,—  
In sorrow banished from our rightful home—  
Our fate to mercy's Queen in hope we leave,  
And dream in wistful silence as we roam.

Our Advocate before the Trinity,  
For strength of victory does daily plead,  
That face to face forever we may see,  
The fruit of her chaste womb—a matchless meed.

Hail, clement Lily, e'er thy praise we sing,  
Sweet master-key to heart of Christ the King!