October 12th: Memorial of Our Lady of the Pillar

Gospel text (*Lk* 11:27-28): While Jesus was speaking, a woman from the crowd called out and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that carried you and the breasts at which you nursed.” He replied, “Rather, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.”

Our Lady of the Pillar (Spain: feast)

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Today, this compliment addressed to the Virgin Mary through Christ, is accepted by the Lord who, while pleased, prefers to add: “Rather, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.” (Lk 11:28). It could be said that a new beatitude has been added, the Word’s, which, at the same time, is a new compliment for the Blessed Virgin Mary, this time from Her Son. Because, through her unconditional “fiat”, she was the first one to hear and accept God’s Word at the Angel’s announcement. This “beatitude of the Word” also reminds us of that other passage from the Gospel where Jesus considers as his family whoever listens to the Word of God and puts it into practice: “My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it.” (Lk 8:21).

—Mary is the Mother of the Church. Mary is the mother of all those who sincerely accept God’s Word and try to happily fulfill it as her children.