

inner peace.

Let us now focus on Mary's crown. One sees that it is composed of seven liquid tears, the seven of many sorrows in the earthly life of Mary. Is She not the master of understanding the true nature of our spiritual journey and formidable task at hand? Is She not reaching us through the embracing of sorrows that they will especially purify us of the many empty illusions of this life and predispose us to follow the loving example of Christ into the Eternal Truth that will set us free at last? The embracing of the cross will always be the surgical tool in the process of our inner healing.

Mary's exquisite facial expression is actually the result of the artists meditation on the accounts of various saints who have been blessed with the visual appearance of Mary. Interestingly, in order to capture the wondrous gift of innocence, the artist responded to an inspiration to utilize a five year old girl's eyes to render such a quality.

Apparently from a distance Mary appears sad and troubled, for there appears a darkening tempest approaching as angels hover in a protective pose around Mary, Mother of the Eucharist. As an observer draws close to Mary, her countenance takes on an air of peace, as if Mary knows that the person will be drawn to follow the example.

The Parable of the Discarded Gift

"In my journey, I crossed a vast open sea onto an endless desolate desert. When I needed to let go of all and yet all seemed lost, to my surprise I was drawn to an ever resplendent Light emanating from a small exquisite village. Surprisingly this Light came from a small iridescent receptacle in the form of a heart-shaped Monstrance. I came to understand experientially this was the Eucharist, the Living Bread, an Eminent Gift of the Eternal One. Sadly, no one was there to be healed by this selfless flame of Divine Love."

A still quiet inviting voice welled up inside my empty heart. It asked, 'Will you not return to your land of brokenness to draw others to this Presence that they unknowingly, endlessly thirst and hunger for?'"

Mary, Mother of the Eucharist And the Small Broken Monstrance

The following is a simple authentic account behind the origins of the inspirations for *Mary, Mother of the Eucharist*. A close friend of the artist, Rev A.J. was, since childhood, mysteriously drawn into the Mystery of the Eucharistic Presence. The Monstrance, meaning the