

Immaculate Conception 2009

I. For human beings like ourselves to appreciate Mary's Immaculate Conception, her freedom from sin, is about as easy as a color blind person to appreciate the subtle hues of mauve, vermillion, or turquoise. Having red-green color blindness like many males, I just can't do it. Ever since Adam and Eve in that first reading messed up the care of the Garden given them by God, we humans have not had an easy time being receptive to Grace

II. Antonio Machado put it this way:

The wind one brilliant day, called
to my soul with an aroma of jasmine.

"In return for this jasmine odor,
I'd like all the odor of your roses"

"I have no roses; I have no flowers left now
in my garden...all are dead."

The wind left...I wept. I said to my soul
"What have you done to the garden entrusted to you?"

III. Most of us look at the Blessed Mother, and think that the beautiful garden of her soul is beyond our reach. But that's not giving God much credit. What did we hear the Angel Gabriel say Mary-"all things well be possible to God". The sword of sorrow which pierced Mary's heart at the foot of the Cross, won't let her forget even one of us in our struggle with sin and weakness. She tends the garden of our soul and as Machado says "I'll take the yellow leaves and dried up

petals" and give them to my Son and all will be well,
all will be well.