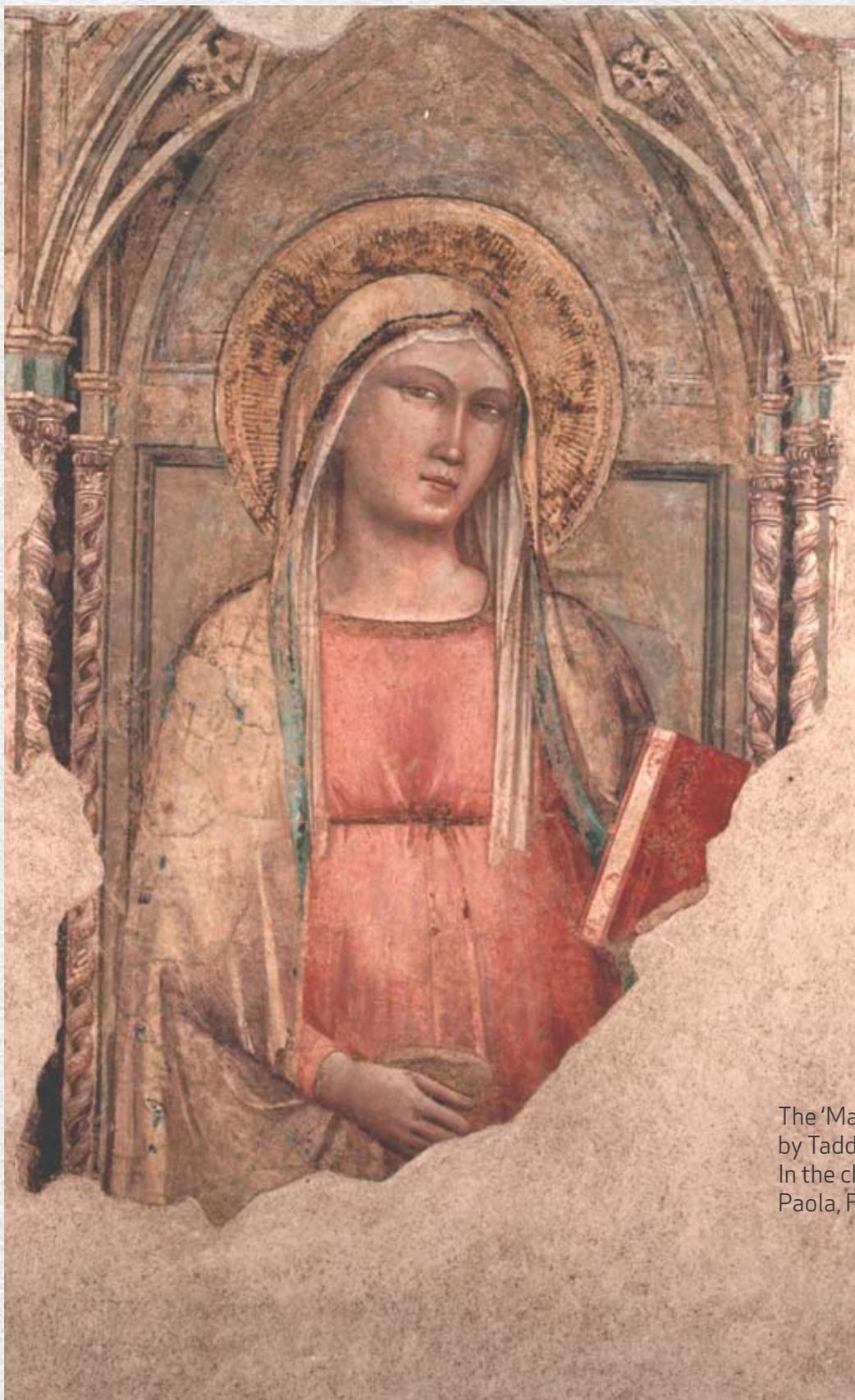


MEDITATION



The 'Madonna del Parto'
by Taddeo Gaddi.
In the church of St Francis of
Paola, Florence, Italy.

Mary and the Holy Spirit



A meditation by **Chiara Lubich**



When the little boat of our life is taking on water and the waves of the storm threaten, we utter a name that comes to the lips of those who suffer, even in their dying breath: 'Mother.'

This does not always refer to mothers on earth; indeed, for a soul a bit familiar with eternal things, it means 'Mary.'

And this is so true that in moments of trial 'mother' is often the cry of those whose hearts belong to God: 'Mother.'

And here is the second miracle of love after the redemption: a God incarnate and a mother for all.

In her every hope for the Christian.

Frequently it occurs to us to ask how Mary, during the long agonies that pierced her heart, managed to live on earth without being able to call upon a mother, the Mother. The direct grafting of her

soul into God shows her unique splendour, her greatness, her uniqueness that is 'high above all other creatures'. Without doubt, God, as he is for us, and so much more for her, was her heart's rest.

But, could it not be that she loved someone who, as Mary herself does for us, represented more specifically for her the personification of love? I think she did find something similar, and infinitely more than we find in her, during her earthly struggle in the Father's service as she brought up her son; she found rest and refreshment, strength and boldness, the ability to live when many deaths would have crushed her, in the One who sustained the Church in her times and in all times: the *Holy Spirit*. The Holy Spirit: this unknown God whom, at our final judgment, we will realize with infinite regret that we perhaps have not sufficiently loved and honoured and thanked. 

Extracts from *Essential Writings* by Chiara Lubich.
Published by New City (2007)