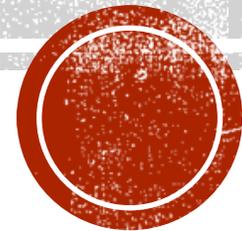


ON MARY

BY

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PREAMBLE

- No one can exhaust the personality and values of our Mother Mary.
- She played an indispensable role of Mary in the history of our salvation
- The questions remains: Why does the Catholic Church give Mary a special place?
- What role did she play?
- What are the reasons why we should love and honor her?



FROM THE BEGINNING GOD HAD A SPECIAL PLAN FOR MARY

- God wanted Mary to be the Mother of God. For that reason, He gave her a special Grace to be freed from Original sin.
- First God sent Angel Gabriel to Mary and announced that by the power of the Holy Spirit she would conceive in her womb the Son of God and name Him Jesus.
- To this astounding news, Mary gave her fiat, or her “yes”, by saying, *“I am the handmaiden of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.”*
- Her perfect obedience to God began the undoing of Eve’s “no” to Him and led to our salvation. Mary raised her Son, Jesus, knowing that He was the Son of God, and in a special way shared in His joys and sorrows as only a mother could.



FROM THE BEGINNING GOD HAD A SPECIAL PLAN FOR MARY

- In anticipation that she was to bear the son of God, Mary was preserved from the time of her conception from Original Sin. We call this the Immaculate Conception.
- No sin would touch her, so that she would be a fitting and worthy vessel of the Son of God.
- It is the faith of the Church that Mary is to be called the Mother of God. The one who she conceived as man by the power of the Holy Spirit, who truly became her son , the second person of the Holy Trinity. The Church addresses **MARY AS THE MOTHER OF GOD.**



FROM THE BEGINNING GOD HAD A SPECIAL PLAN FOR MARY

- Mary was always Virgin, both in conceiving Jesus, giving birth to him, and remaining virgin ever after. God granted her this privilege to emphasize that this was unique moment in history—the birth of Jesus who is the son of God and son of Mary.
- When the course of her earthly life was ended, “Mary was taken body and soul into heavenly glory and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, so that she might be more fully conformed to her son, the Lord of lords and conqueror of death.”(CCC, no 966). That what we call ASSUMPTION.



MARY IS THE FIRST DISCIPLE OF JESUS

- She is the first and the greatest of all the disciples of Christ.
- Her life was made fertile by the Holy Spirit
- She kept and contemplated the things of Jesus in her heart
- She made the Lord present to the world
- She suffered more than any disciple for her decision to “let it be done unto me...”
- Faithfulness, fertility, prayerfulness, giving witness, acceptance of suffering and trust in God are key hallmarks of discipleship.



MARY AS THE MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

- If Mary is the Mother of God, invariably, she is also the Mother of the Church.
- The Second Vatican Council reminds us that Mary is a member of the Church who “occupies a place in the Church which is the highest after Christ and the closest to us.” (LG, no.54).



MARY AS THE MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

- The title of Mary as the Mother of the Church, was given to her by Pope Paul VI at the beginning of the Second Vatican Council.
- From Christ's conception until his death, Mary was united to her son in his work of salvation. From the Cross, Jesus entrusted his beloved disciple to Mary, telling him to see her as his mother (Jn 19:27).
- When the Apostles and disciples gathered to pray after the Ascension of Jesus, Mary was with them praying for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Mary continues to pray before God for the Church and humanity.
- Today, the Church continues to give birth to people in Christ through Baptism. The Church can never cease to look at Mary, who gave birth to Jesus Christ.



MARY'S MATERNAL INTERCESSION

- We know that Jesus Christ is the one and only mediator. But this does not deny the possibility that Christ would permit others to share in his mediating role.
- Here on earth, we routinely ask others for prayers. Instinctively, we turn to holy people for their prayers because they seem nearer to God. We ask the saints for their prayers because we believe they are in Heaven.
- So, Mary continues in heaven to be concerned for the growth of all the members of the Church into holiness and an intimate relationship with her Son.



WHY DO WE HONOR MARY

- We honor Mary primarily because God first honored her by choosing her to become the mother of Jesus, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, when He took on human flesh and became man.
- The angel said to Mary: *“Hail full of grace, the Lord is with you. Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall call His Name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High...”* (Lk 1:30-32).



WHY DO WE HONOR MARY

- After the Angel had received her consent to become the mother of Jesus, the Blessed Virgin Mary visited Elizabeth.
- At Mary's greeting, Elizabeth said, "Blessed *are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me, that the Mother of my Lord should come to me?*" (Lk 1:42-43; RSV 2 Catholic) .



THE COMPOSITION OF THE PRAYER CALLED ROSARY

- The Rosary which we say is a power prayer that connects us to Mary and helps us build relationship with her.
- The words of the Rosary are Scriptural. They come from the Greetings of Angel Gabriel to Mary as well as Elizabeth's greetings to Mary. The Church only added the concluding part of the prayer.
 - Hail Mary full of Grace, the Lord is with you(**Angel Gabriel**). Blessed are you among Women and Blessed is the fruit of your womb Jesus(**Elizabeth**). Hail Mary Mother of God, Pray for us Sinners now and the hour of our death. Amen(**What the Church added**).



QUESTIONS

- **Have you developed a relationship with Mary?**
- **What are the qualities of Mary that you can relate to?**

