

Introduction to Mariology

WHY This Topic? Because Devotion to Mary is Necessary for our Salvation.

“The Blessed Virgin is all the more necessary for men to attain their final end. Consequently we must not place devotion to her on the same level as devotion to the other saints as if it were merely something optional.” – St. Louis de Montfort, *True Devotion*, No. 39

"No one is saved but through you, O Mary." – St. Germanus of Auxerre¹ (✠ c. 450 AD)

"We may seek for graces but shall never find them without the intercession of Mary."
– St. Cajetan (✠ 1547 AD)

"Whoever asks and expects to obtain graces without the intercession of Mary, endeavors to fly without wings." – St. Antoninus of Florence (✠ 1459 AD)

"Go to Mary, for God has decreed that He will grant no graces otherwise than by the hands of Mary."
– St. Bernard of Clairvaux (✠ 1153 AD)

"O Lady, since Thou art the dispenser of all graces, and since the grace of salvation can only come through Thy hands, our salvation depends on Thee." - St. Bernardine of Sienna (✠ 1444 AD)

"God will not save us without the intercession of Mary." – St. Bonaventure (✠ 1274 AD)

"It remains for us to receive Christ only through the hands of Mary."² – Pope St. Pius X (✠ 1914 AD)

True Devotion to Mary by St. Louis Grignon de Montfort (✠ 1716 AD)

"Anyone who does not have Mary for his mother, does not have God for his Father." (30)

"The salvation of the world began through Mary and through her it must be accomplished." (49)

"If devotion to the Blessed Virgin is necessary for all men simply to work out their salvation, it is even more necessary for those who are called to a special perfection." (43)

WHAT are we seeking?

True Devotion to Mary.

➤ *Orthopraxy* is always based upon *orthodoxy*.

(cf. Acts 24:14, Rom 12:6; 2 Thes 2:10-12, James 2:14-19)

➤ The two 'extremes' of heterodoxy with respect to Our Blessed Mother.

➔ A Marian *Excess* – To think Mary IS God (i.e. Fourth Person of the Bl. Trinity) – *Very rare*

✦ As long as you know she is not God, then no praise is adequate enough!

✦ "***De Maria numquam satis.***" – St. Bernard, Doctor of the Church

➔ A Marian *Defect* or a Minimalism – Far too common today!

✦ We do not honor, trust in her, or love her as we ought.

✦ As in all things, we ought to *imitate Christ*.

¹ These saint quotes are taken from the Fatima Crusader (<http://www.fatimacrusader.com/cr11/cr11pg29.asp>)

² St. Pius X, encyclical *Ad diem illum* (2 Feb 1904), No. 6.

➤ Definition of Terms

- ➔ **latria** – Adoration, worship and homage due to God alone (because He is God).
- ➔ **dulia** – Veneration, honor and reverence appropriately due to the excellence of a created person.
 - ✦ Note: Saints receive their *dulia* precisely on account of their relation to God.
 - ✦ Note: The *dulia* shown to the saints does not end with the saints themselves, but ultimately is given to God through, with and in the saints.
- ➔ **hyperdulia** – The highest, greatest *dulia* that can be given. It is reserved for Mary alone.
 - ✦ e.g. The Rosary, Brown Scapular, Immaculate Heart of Mary, First Saturday, *Study*
 - ✦ Note: The external practices must always flow from an authentic interior spirit of trust and love
 - ✦ *Protodulia*: After Mary, that ‘first’ of veneration which we give to St. Joseph.

HOW is this found?

Through our Catholic Tradition.

➤ Examine the sources of our Faith:

Ultimately, all our Faith rests upon *Jesus Christ*, the Eternal Logos, who reveals God to us.

➔ Sacred Tradition

- ➔ Sacred Scripture
- ➔ Divine Liturgy
- ➔ Magisterial Teaching (Church Councils, papal encyclicals, approved apparitions)
- ➔ Church Fathers, Doctors of the Church and Saints

➤ The proper use of our human reasoning.

➤ Above all this comes from a life of prayer and devotion; *living* it from the *heart*.

Major Marian Dogmas

Already defined infallibly in an unmistakable manner:

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|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| [1] Theotokos, Mother of God | [3] Her Immaculate Conception |
| [2] Perpetual Virginitly of Mary | [4] Her Glorious Assumption |

Already defined infallibly by the ordinary and universal magisterium of the Church:

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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| [5] Mary is Co-Redemptrix | [7] Mary is Mother of the Church |
| [6] Mary is Mediatrix of all Graces | [8] Mary is Queen of Heaven and Earth |

Also very helpful in understanding our Blessed Mother are some of her oft repeated titles:

e.g. New Eve, Ark of the Covenant, Gate of Heaven, Refuge of Sinners, Help of Christians...

The oldest preserved extant Marian prayer (hymn):

~250 AD, from the Coptic liturgy

*Sub tuum praesidium
confugimus,
Sancta Dei Genetrix,
Nostras deprecationes ne despicias
in necessitatibus nostris,
sed a periculis cunctis
libera nos semper,
Virgo gloriosa et benedicta*

Under thy protection
We seek refuge
O Holy Mother of God,
despise not our petitions
in our necessities
but from all dangers
deliver us always,
O ever glorious and blessed Virgin.

MARY in the SACRED SCRIPTURES

“The Blessed Virgin Mary is contained mystically, directly or indirectly, in all the Sacred Books, and in all the canticles, even in every verse.” – St. Vincent Ferrer³

To speak summarily, the whole Scripture is written of her, through her and for her.” – St. Bernard of Clairvaux⁴

The Old Testament – Prophecy and Type

Type: A person, thing, place or action which has its own independent identity, but at the same time is intended by God to prefigure a future person, thing, place or action.

Protoevangelium, Gn 3:15

Virginal Prophecy of Emmanuel, Is 7:14

O Bethlehem Ephrathah, Micah 5:23

New Eve (Gn 3:20)

Ark of Noah (Gn 6:9)

Sarah (Gn 17:16; 21:1-2)

Jacob’s Ladder (Gn 28:12)

Rebecca (Gn 27:15-29)

Burning Bush (Ex 3:1)

Rachel (Gn 37:28)

Rod of Aaron (Numbers 17:8-10)

Miriam (Num 12:4)

Fleece of Gideon (Judges 6:36-39)

Debbora (Judges 4)

Tower of David (Cant 4:4)

Jahal (Judges 4)

Closed Gate (Ez 44:2)

Ruth (Ruth 1:15)

Enclosed and Inviolable Garden (Cant 4:12)

Sara (Tobias 3:13-23)

Temple of God (3 Kings 8)

Judith (Judith 8-15)

Seat of Wisdom

Esther (Esther 4:16; 7:1-10)

Daughter of Sion (4 Kgs 19:21, many Psalms)

Susanna (Daniel 13:31, 35, 42-43, 63)

Queen Mother (3 Kgs 2:19, *Gebirah*)

Heroic Mother of Seven (2 Mac 7:1-41)

Desired Bride (Is 61:10, 62:5)

Ark of the Covenant (Ex 37)

³ De Concept. Virginis. (Mother of God, 22)

⁴ Serm. iii in Salve (Mother of God, 22)

The New Testament – She is *The Woman of Scripture*

The Annunciation, Lk 1:26-38

The Visitation, Lk 1:39-56

The Nativity of Jesus, Lk 2:4-20

The Purification of Mary and Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, Lk 2:22-39

The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple, Lk 2:41-52

Her blessedness, Lk 11:27-28

The Betrothal of Mary, Mt 1:18

The Ordeal of Joseph, Mt 1:20

The Arrival of the Magi, Mt 2:1-12

The Flight of the Holy Family into Egypt, Mt 2:13-18

The Return to Israel, Mt 2:19-23

The Mother and brethren of Jesus, Mk 3:31, Lk 8:19 and Mt 12:46

The Wedding of Cana, Jn 2:1-10

Mary at the Foot of the Cross, Jn 19:25-27

Mary in the Upper Room at Pentecost, Acts 1:13-2:4

St. Paul's *Profession of Faith* (Creedal), Gal 4:4

The Woman Clothed With the Sun, Rev 11:19-12:1-6; 13-17