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## Mary in the Marian Year

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**MARY**

**IN**

**THE MARIAN YEAR**

**JUNE 7, 1987 - AUGUST 15, 1988**



*To prepare for the 2000th Anniversary of the Birth of Jesus Christ, we must "direct our gaze towards His Mother"*

*Pope John Paul II*

*She is  
the morning star that  
announces  
the rising Son.*

M1-B



Pope John Paul II proclaimed the Marian Year to emphasize during these years (before the end of the II Millennium since Christ's birth) the special bond between humanity and our Mother Mary. As the mystery of man takes on light only in the mystery of Christ, so only in Christ does the mystery of Mary become fully clear.

Through being the Mother of Christ, she is the Mother of the Church. She is uniquely present in the whole people of God, going before it in its pilgrimage of faith. She is constant point of reference for individuals, community, peoples and of all humanity. She reveals and expresses her presence through the faith and devotion that is present in them. You, who work, will find the Mother of the Lord and be blessed through faith, for she is the one who is blessed, because she believed.

## MARY OUR BELOVED MADONNA

Mary was entirely for Christ:

- \* predestined with Him
- \* Conceived without Sin in preparation for giving Him His human nature
- \* indissolubly united with Him throughout His life
- \* assists in bringing Him to us

Second only to Jesus, Mary the most appealing of all figures in the Gospels.

She...

- \* plays an important role in God's plan of salvation through Christ.
- \* occupies an unparalleled place in the devotional life of millions.
- \* a Marian bibliography alone would fill volumes.

# Life of Mary

\* eternally predestined with God the Son: chosen to give Him His human nature.

\* amazed young maiden whom the angel greets as "most favored."

\* astonished by a promise which goes counter to Nature's Law. (Virginal conception and birth)

\* in her simple dialogue with the Angel, there rings insight and conviction.



\* accepting the Divine Will, she conceived Jesus Christ.

\* pregnant with Jesus, she visits and helps Elizabeth.

\* sings her wondrous song of joy in God, "The Magnificat."

\* gives birth to Jesus in Bethlehem of Judea.

\* escapes with Jesus and Joseph to Egypt.

\* lives in Nazareth, nourishes and cares for her family.

\* hears 12 year old Jesus' mysterious words in the temple: "about my Father's business (or house)."

\* expresses complete trust in Jesus' power and love at the wedding in Cana.

\* hovers about Jesus in His public life.

\* suffers with Jesus and stands valiantly at the Cross.

\* is present at the descent of the Holy Spirit.

\* is always His associate of unique nobility and humble handmaid.

# Marys Times

- \* Mary was probably born in *Nazareth, Palestine.*
- \* *Palestine* is 150 miles long and 90 miles at its widest.
- \* The despotic, cunning *Edomite King Herod* ruled then.
- \* Her parents are unknown: tradition calls them *Joachim* and *Anne.*
- \* She had a remarkable knowledge of Scripture: Her "*Magnificat*" is full of *Biblical* references.



## Marys Home

- \* *cavelike* structure, as in *Palestine* today.
- \* fixed upon a *hillside.*
- \* had *kitchen, furnace, grill,* large vessels for provisions, bottles, baskets, chests for apparel for men and women: mantles, tunics, veils.
- \* *Mary's clothing* was wool in winter, linen in summer.
- \* Her food was *barley* (made into bread or biscuits), lentils, onions, beans, asparagus, tomatoes, rice, fruit such as peaches, figs, melons, dates, pomegranates.
- \* very little meat, some fish.

# Marys Lifestyle

\* *simple*--each day the same task, like peasants in Western society.

\* water to draw, bread to knead, meals to prepare, clothes to mend, spinning to do.

\* three times a day: *prayer* with prescribed psalms and blessings.

\* on *Sabbath*: no work, day of rest, all dedicated to Almighty God.

\* *Festivals*: gather in local synagogue or go to Jerusalem.

# Marys Gifts

All of these gifts came from God, given to her by Jesus, of whose fullness, she, with us, "has been enriched". Among these gifts are:



\* chosen from eternity to participate with Christ in His *Incarnation* and *Work of Redemption*.

**MARY IS THE  
DAUGHTER OF GOD THE FATHER  
MOTHER OF GOD THE SON  
SPOUSE OF GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

For Mary, God sets  
aside His own laws:

**MARY...**

- \* was conceived without sin.
- \* was confirmed in and full of grace.
- \* kept her virginity intact in the conception and birth of Jesus.

Two privileges were conferred on Mary at the beginning of her life:

- \* *immunity from original sin*
- \* *fullness of grace*

Three privileges during her life:

- \* immunity from actual sin
- \* perpetual virginity of body and soul
- \* unique intellectual endowment

Four privileges at end of life:

- \* immunity from corruption
- \* anticipated resurrection
- \* bodily assumption
- \* glorification as Queen of Heaven

As Christ's associate she acts as a Mother, giving His supernatural life (grace) to the new children of God, to individuals, and to the whole community, the Body of Christ, the Church. She is our Spiritual Mother.

# Mary's Person

*This admirable woman is mysterious.*

The world is incapable and unworthy of piercing the mysteries which encompass her: the Holy Spirit in Holy Scripture willed to be allusive and sketchy, revealing only events connected with her essential vocation as

**MOTHER OF THE REDEEMER.**



Because Mary is so close to her Divine Son, it is hard to analyze her psychological actions and reactions in purely human terms. They are not the same as in other women. More than human interpretation is needed.

## **MARY IS AN APPEALING AND COMPELLING PERSON:**

- \* her remarkable psychological concepts are expressed mainly by her habit of good behavior.
- \* supernaturally modest, reserved, haloed with grace.
- \* her soul, heart, and mind were unshadowed by any evil.
- \* her memory and understanding were not weighed down or contaminated by the mirages of her times.
- \* her character was firmly grounded in the conviction of her destiny.
- \* had faith, far beyond what a young girl would ordinarily have.



\* behaved without fear as though it was natural and normal for an Angel to hail her in so extraordinary a manner.

\* pondered and weighed every message before deciding.

\* gave a normal response to a conception that defied analysis.

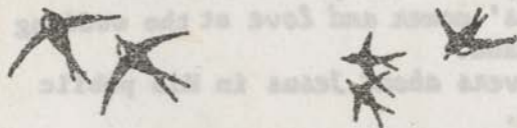
\* trusts God even though her pregnancy would humanly, socially and religiously scandalize others.

When Jesus invited Judas to the Last Supper, but not Mary, she was not perturbed. Rather, she presented the very apex of motherly effacement.

At her Son's conception, birth, flight to Egypt, in the temple during His hidden and public life, and at the Cross, the virtues of motherhood flourished though she is a virgin.

A strong character, a valiant woman, she confronted the death of her Son resolutely. Upright in body and soul, she stood at the Cross of Jesus.

Mary possesses all the finest qualities of womanhood and the strength and power to unify. She is a great person in her own right, a beautiful Lady.



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