

WHY PRAY TO MARY?

By *Fino Giordano*



For most of my life I have heard from Catholic and Non-Catholics the question: Why pray to Mary? Some individuals are even taught to put the Mother of God down and degrade her so not to interfere with the dignity and supremacy of Jesus Christ her Son. Catholics do not worship the Mother of Jesus Christ.

We honor her, as we are commanded to honor our own earthly mother, but with the extra respect for being the Mother of God. Mary gave her fiat - "yes" - to the Angel Gabriel. **Luke 1:26-28: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you."** (*The beginning of the Hail Mary Prayer...*) **Luke 1:38: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."** Mary is not just another woman as we shall see with our hearts.

Have you ever asked someone to pray for you, for someone else, pray together for world peace, or that a certain event in your life to have a good ending. We Catholics believe that the saints in heaven, as well as we struggling souls on earth, can help each other through **intercessory prayer**.

Remember it was the **intersession** of Our Holy Mother which persuaded her Son to help the newlyweds at their wedding reception. They were embarrassed because they ran out of wine. **John 2:3-5: "His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you".** This is what Our Holy Mother is saying all over the world today, as in the past. Mary, a Virgin,

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THE HAIL MARY OF A PROTESTANT *A True Story*



A little six year old Protestant boy had often heard Catholic companions reciting the Hail Mary. He liked it so much that he copied it, memorized it and would recite it every day. "Look, Mommy, what a beautiful prayer."

"Never say it again", answered his mother. "It is a superstitious prayer of Catholics who adore and think Mary is a goddess. After all she is a woman like any other. Come on, take this Bible and read it. It contains everything that we are bound to do and have to do." From that day on the little boy discontinued his daily Hail Mary and gave himself more time in reading the Bible instead."

One day while reading the Gospel, he came across the passage about the Annunciation of the Angel to Our Lady. Full of joy, the little boy ran to his mother and said: "Mommy, I have found the 'Hail Mary' in the Bible which says: 'Hail full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou amongst women.' Why do you call it a superstitious prayer?"

On another occasion he found that beautiful salutation of St. Elizabeth to the Virgin Mary and wonderful canticle Magnificat in which Mary foretold that "generations would call her blessed."

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OUR MOTHER QUEEN OF PEACE-BETANIA XIII TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

St. Francis of Assisi Church Clay Pitts Rd., Greenlawn, NY
7 PM Rosary, Short Talk, 7:35 Mass or Benediction when possible. Guest Speaker Presentation, followed by refreshments and religious articles.

Wednesday, June 24 Medjugorje 34 Anniversary "Healing Mass," Pray for the Vatican Commission investigating the apparitions. Whatever the decision we must be obedient.

Monday, July 13 ~ Monday, August 10 ~

* **Monday Sept. 14 Our Mother Queen of Peace**

30 Anniversary Celebration ~ Monday, October 12



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gave us Jesus on the first Christmas Day and now she continues to bring us to Him every day. She is not just another woman!

When Jesus heard the request of His mother at the wedding feast, he said, **John 4-4:5** “**woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come.**” The word **woman** was not a *put down* but to show great biblical significance. At the Crucifixion; **John 19:26-27**: “**When Jesus saw his mother, and disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, ‘Woman behold your son.’ Then He said to his disciple ‘Behold, your Mother!’**” (*At this point, Jesus gave His mother to all mankind and fulfilled the prophesy from, Genesis 3:15: “I will put enmity between you and the Woman and between your seed and her seed ...”*, *—(You and your refers to Satan.)*) Satan fears Our Holy Mother especially her Rosary.

The word **women** was used again when Mary went to help her cousin Elizabeth to assist her in the last months of her pregnancy carrying St. John the Baptist. When Elizabeth saw Mary: **Luke 1:42**: “**... and Elizabeth exclaimed with a loud cry, Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.**” (*Another portion of the Hail Mary Prayer*) **And Luke 1:48**: “**For behold all generations will call me blessed.**” **Luke 43**: “**And how does this happen to me, that the mother my Lord should come to me?**” Evidently, Saint Elizabeth held Mary in high regard. **Luke 44**: “**For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy.**” Note, St. Elizabeth did not say the fetus or blob of cells in my womb leaped for joy, an infant!

Today the Blessed Mother fulfills, **Revelation 12:1**: “**And a great sign appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.**” (*This is the image on the Miraculous Medal, which was given in a vision to St. Catherine Labouré, in 1830.*) *One should read about this devotion and realize what the Blessed Mother said, “The graces that come from God, and I send to mankind could be much greater, but few are requesting my assistance.” St. Bernadette was wearing the miraculous medal when the Blessed Mother appeared to her at Lourdes in 1858, and Our Blessed Mother, noticed the medal and smiled. (I paraphrased here.)*

As you can see Scripture calls Mary “blessed” over and over again! She is not just another woman but the loving mother for all mankind. She deserves our honor and respect for her courageous suffering as predicted. **Luke 2:34-35**: “**And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against, and a sword will pierce through your own soul also, that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed.**”

I could write a book on why humanity should love Our Holy

Mother, but it has been done many, many times. May I suggest you read these books for a good start; “*The Life of the Blessed Mother*” by Blessed Catherine Emmerich; you will not be able to put it down. It brings the Gospels to a new life. Another good book is “*The Glories of Mary*”, by Saint Alphonsus Liguori. This Saint uses the Old and New Testament texts which relate to the Blessed Mother, in a beautiful discourse using life experiences, from the saints and the laity in relation to Our Holy Mother. I wore the book out as well as my earthly mother did right before she died.

Once you begin to appreciate Our Holy Mother and begin to have a devotion to her it must be without error! Why, do I say this? Because, true devotion to Mary must be guided by truth, not superstition or presumption, and not by making Mary a goddess. The book “*True Devotion to Mary*”, by St. Louis deMontfort, is a must. It was this book, that Saint Pope John Paul II read and subsequently dedicated his papacy and life to Our Holy Mother. His motto was “*Totus Tus*”, *totally yours – Mary.*

As many of you know I have been studying Marian apparitions for about 40 years. *I am not an authority.* One of the apparitions, that is not approved yet, left a big impression on me. The seers at this apparition included a priest and during one of the apparitions they asked Jesus, “why Mary?”. I will paraphrase here; Jesus “*Smiled and shook his head from side to side and said, I the Son of God came to you through this woman, Mary. I obeyed and honored her for 33 years. She was good enough for the Holy Spirit, God the Father and Me and now you are asking me if she is good enough for mankind?*” May I add here most of my life I associated with Jewish families. Good Jewish sons always obey their mothers. In all the studying I have been doing, Jesus never refused his mother any request. Knowing this I pray to Mary to help me and all humanity to reach heaven, just as the newlyweds at Cana asked for Mary’s intercession.

Lastly read; **Luke 1: 46-55...** Man has given this section of the Bible many titles; *Mary’s Song, The Canticle of Mary, The Magnificat, etc...* It says it all about our Holy Mother and it continues in the book or Revelation. Read it and meditate on it.

The Protestant, Martin Luther’s explanation of the Magnificat: *One should honor Mary as she herself wished and as she expressed in the Magnificat. She praised God for his deeds. How then can we praise her? The true honor of Mary is the honor of God, the praise of God’s grace. Mary is nothing for the sake of herself, but for the sake of Christ. Mary does not wish that we come to her, but through her to God. . Dave Armstrong-Catholic Culture.org*

On Christmas Day, 1529 Martin Luther gave this sermon; *“Mary is the Mother of Jesus and of all of us though it was*

Christ alone who reposed on her knees...If he is ours, we ought to be in his situation; there where he is, we ought also to be and all that he has ought to be ours, and his mother is also our mother.” Catholic Bridge.com

Once you understand the Love Our Holy Mother has for all humanity, past, present and future, you will weep. As St. Alphonsus Liguori, says in his book, “If you add up all the love of mothers, for their children in all history until the end of the world, it would not add up to love she has for each one of us.” This is why she weeps so for any lost soul, as any good mother would. She will help you become one with her son. Satan will try to prevent this in any way he can. Satan hates the Blessed Mother and with all his power tries to prevent any kind of Marian Devotion. He instigates these false statements I hear all the time.... “Mary is just another woman anyone could have taken her place”.... “Catholics have made Mary a goddess”. I have listened to preachers that teach this calumny.

All these falsehoods are part of the sword that pierces the heart

of Mary, as prophesied by Simeon when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple to be consecrated to the Lord in accordance to the law of Moses. *Luke 2-34: “... and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother; Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted, and you yourself a sword will pierce...”*

It is up to mankind to love and honor the Blessed Mother of Jesus Christ, as she helps us come to her Son, or to be part of the pain of the sword as predicted. The 4th Commandment of God; Honor Your Father and Your Mother.

In the end, she promised her Immaculate Heart Will Triumph, Fatima 1917. This will happen when all hearts are one with her Son, Jesus. **Galatians 2:20: “... it is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me.”** The Hearts of Jesus and Mary are one and so it will be for all souls who keep His commandments with Love.

THE HAIL MARY OF A PROTESTANT - A TRUE STORY *Continued from page 1*

He said no more about it to his mother but started to recite the “Hail Mary” everyday as before. He felt pleasure in addressing those charming words to the Mother of Jesus our Savior.

When he was fourteen, he one day heard a discussion about Our Lady among the members of his family. Everyone said Mary was a common woman like any other woman. The boy, after listening to their erroneous reasoning could not bear it any longer, and full of indignation, he interrupted them, saying: “Mary is not like any other children of Adam, stained with sin. NO! The angel called her FULL OF GRACE AND BLESSED AMONGST WOMEN. Mary is the Mother of Jesus Christ and consequently the Mother of God. There is no higher dignity to which a creature can be raised. The Gospel says that the generations will proclaim her blessed and you are trying to despise her and look down on her. Your spirit is not the spirit of the Gospel or of the Bible which you proclaim to be the foundation of the Christian religion.”

So deep was the impression which the boy’s talk had made, that his mother many times cried out sorrowfully: “Oh my god! I fear that this son of mine will join the Catholic religion, the religion of popes!” And indeed not long afterwards, having made a serious study of both Protestantism and Catholicism, the boy found the latter to be the only true religion and embraced the religion of popes!

Sometime after his conversion, he met his married sister who rebuked him and said indignantly: “You little know how much I love my children. Should any one of them desire to become Catholic, I would sooner pierce his heart with a dagger than allow him to embrace the religion of popes!”

Her anger and temper were as furious as those of St. Paul before

his conversion. However, she would change her ways, just as St. Paul did on his way to Damascus. It so happened that one of her sons fell dangerously ill and doctors gave up hope of his recovery. Her brother then approached her and spoke to her affectionately saying:

“My dear sister, you naturally wish to have your child cured. Very well then, do what I ask you to do. Follow me, let us pray one Hail Mary and promise God that, if your son recovers his health, you would seriously study the Catholic doctrine, and should you come to the conclusion that Catholicism is the only true religion, you would embrace it no matter what the sacrifices may be.”

His sister was somewhat reluctant at the beginning, but she wished for her son’s recovery, she accepted her brother’s proposal and recited the Hail Mary together with him. The very next day her son was completely cured. His sister fulfilled her promise and she studied the Catholic doctrine. After long preparation she received baptism together with her whole family, thanking her brother for being an apostle to her.

This story was related about Mary during a sermon given by the Rev. Fr. Tuckwell. “Brethren”, he went on and said, “The boy who became a Catholic and converted his sister to Catholicism dedicated his whole life to the service of God. He is the priest who is speaking to you now! What I am I owe to Our Lady. You, too, my dear brethren, be entirely dedicated also to Our Lady and never let a day pass without saying the beautiful prayer Hail Mary and your Rosary. Ask her to enlighten the minds of Protestants who are separated from the true Church of Christ founded on the Rock, (St. Peter), and “... against whom the gates of hell shall never prevail.”



ST. JOHN VIANNEY, The Cure'ofArs

“His Thoughts of the Blessed Mother”
(Compiled by W.M.B.)

I love the little booklet the, “Thoughts of the Cure’ of D’ars”. Here are some of his quotes:

- 1.) “The Blessed Mother is like a good mother who, not content with looking after all her children in general, watches over each one separately.”
- 2.) “Jesus on the Cross said to the disciple whom He loved, “Behold you Mother!” How sweet are those to the Christian who is able to understand what depths of love they contain.”
- 3.) “Jesus Christ, after having given all us He could give, that is to say, the merit of His toils, His sufferings, and His bitter death; after having given us His Adorable body and Blood to be the Food of our souls, willed also to give us the most precious thing He had left, His Holy Mother.”
- 4.) “It is impossible to mediate with devotion upon the Mysteries of the Rosary and live in the state of sin.”
- 5.) “Happy is he who lives and dies under the protection of the Blessed Virgin.”
- 6.) “The Blessed Virgin’s life was one of sorrow ... Every time her tender glance fell upon her Divine Son she suffered”
- 7.) “Let us live as the Blessed Virgin lived: loving God only, desiring God only, and trying to please God only in all that we do.”
- 8.) “A pure soul is with God, as a child with its mother. It caresses and embraces her, and its mother returns all the endearments.”



PLEA TO THE LIVING HEART OF MARY

Composed by Maria Esperanza,
Servant of God

(From her booklet,
“The Column of Light”)

“My Mother, my Mother, soften my soul with your living and loving Heart reaffirming my faith. Mother Mary, pray for me, hold my faith, increase my love, vivify my soul, console me, open my path, guide me at all times, and watch over me, Amen.”



ALLEGED MESSAGES OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY - MEDJUGORJE

April 25, 2015 *April 25, 2015 “Dear children, I am with you also today to lead you to salvation. Your soul is restless because your spirit is weak and tired from all worldly things. You, little children, pray to the Holy Spirit that He may transform you and fill you with his strength of faith and hope, so that you may be firm in this battle against evil. **I am with you and intercede for you before my son Jesus.** Thank you for having responded to my call.”*

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