

Mary, Woman of Faith: Renewing Our Awareness

Links and Resources

Scripture

(Passages cited in the text are from *New Revised Standard Version Bible, Catholic Edition*, Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1993.)

- Genesis 3:15. God said to the serpent: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers. . ."
- Exodus 15:20–21. Miriam's triumphant song of praise to God.
- I Samuel 2:1–10. The prayer of Hannah, echoed in Mary's prayer, "The Magnificat."
- Isaiah 7:14. A prophetic description of a young woman who "is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel."
- Micah 5: 2–3. Another prophetic description of the coming of Jesus and "she who is in labor."
- Matthew 1:18–25. Matthew's account of the annunciation and the birth of Jesus.
- Matthew 12:46–50. Matthew's account of the true kindred of Jesus.
- Mark 3:31–35. Mark's account of the true kindred of Jesus.
- Luke 1: 26–56. The annunciation, the angel Gabriel's words to Mary and her response, and the visitation, Mary's visit to Elizabeth and her prayer, "The Magnificat."
- Luke 2:19. Mary treasures and ponders the words of the shepherds "in her heart."
- Luke 2:25–35. Simeon's prophecy when Jesus is presented in the Temple.
- Luke 2:41–52. Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the Temple.
- Luke 8:19–21. Luke's account of the true kindred of Jesus.
- John 2:1–12. The wedding at Cana.
- John 19:25–27. Mary and "the disciple whom he loved" at the foot of the cross.
- Acts 1:14. Mary is with the apostles and other women praying in the upper room.
- Revelation 12:1–18. The apocalyptic vision of a "woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars."

Conciliar Documents

Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (Sacrosanctum concilium), 103.

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19631204_sacrosanctum-concilium_en.html

This short paragraph points out that the Church honors Mary “with special love” in the annual cycle of the liturgy.

Decree on the Church’s Missionary Activity (Ad gentes), 4.

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decree_19651207_ad-gentes_en.html.

In this description of the work of the Holy Spirit in salvation history, the Council writes, “Christ was conceived when the Holy Spirit came upon the Virgin Mary.”

Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen gentium), Chapter 8.

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19641121_lumen-gentium_en.html

This entire chapter is devoted to the role of “The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, in the Mystery of Christ and the Church.”

Papal Documents

Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary (Marialis cultus), (February 2, 1974), Pope Paul VI.

An apostolic exhortation “for the right ordering and development of devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.”

The Mother of the Redeemer (Redemptoris mater), (March 25, 1987), Pope John Paul II.

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25031987_redemptoris-mater_en.html

Encyclical with a view toward the millennium; the “Jubilee of the birth of Jesus Christ at the same time directs our gaze toward his Mother.” (#3)

Catechism of the Catholic Church

http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/ccc_toc.htm

#67 The Church’s approach to “private revelations” (such as Marian apparitions)

<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p1s1c2a1.htm#III>

#484–511 “Conceived by Power of the Holy Spirit and Born of the Virgin Mary”

<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p122a3p2.htm>

#721–726 “Rejoice, you who are full of grace”

<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p1s2c3a8.htm#V>

#829 In Mary, “the Church is already the ‘all-holy’”

<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p123a9p3.htm#I>

#963–975 “Mary—Mother of Christ, Mother of the Church”

<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p123a9p6.htm#I>

#2617–2619 “The prayer of the Virgin Mary”

<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p4s1c1a2.htm#brief>

#2673–2679 “In communion with the holy Mother of God”

<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p4s1c2a2.htm>

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Documents

Behold Your Mother: Woman of Faith (November 21, 1973).

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops reviews Scripture and tradition about Mary and then discuss topics such as “Her Place in the Communion of Saints,” “Mary in Christian Devotion,” and “The Blessed Virgin and Ecumenism.”

Small Christian Communities: A Vision of Hope for the 21st Century

pp. 243–44. A description of devotional prayer that comments on the rosary and also discusses the way Mary “teaches us how to say ‘yes’ to the mysterious ways of our God...” To order:

<http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/voh.html>.

Books

Boucher, Therese M. “What Name Do We Give Mary?” (Melville, NY: April 14, 1999). Unpublished manuscript. From the perspectives of Scripture and Marian tradition, through the wisdom of prayer, and in the words of the saints, this work explores the names and titles of Mary that reveal who she is to us and before God.

Brown, Raymond E., et al., eds. *Mary in the New Testament*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1978. A careful study of Marian content in the letters of Paul, the four gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, Revelation, and the writings of the early Church. Scholarly work, but not just for scholarly readers.

Cunneen, Sally. *In Search of Mary: The Woman and the Symbol*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1996. A very readable historical search for information about Mary—from the New Testament’s Miriam of Nazareth to the insights of contemporary writers and visual artists.

Forest, Jim. *Praying with Icons*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1997. Background information on icons, including history, rules for the iconographer, and the value of icons for prayer. Brief treatment of more than twenty icons. Color plates.

Frisk, M. Jean and Marianne Lorraine Trouve, eds. *Mother of Christ, Mother of the Church: Documents on the Blessed Virgin Mary*. Boston: Pauline Books & Media, 2000. Collection of major Church documents on the Blessed Virgin Mary and excerpts from selected documents with significant sections on Marian doctrine.

Gaffney, Patrick, ed. *Jesus Living in Mary: Handbook of the Spirituality of St. Louis de Montfort*. Bay Shore, NY: Montfort Publications, 1994. Encyclopedic presentation of Montfort’s Marian way to the Trinitarian life of love. An in-depth dictionary-like presentation and practical guide to his spirituality of evangelization.

Mary: A Word, A Prayer. Harrison, NY: Ignatius Press, 1992. Videotape. This film traces the artistic images of Mary that have helped people down through the centuries to come closer to her son, Jesus, and the Church.

Nouwen, Henri. *Behold the Beauty of the Lord: Praying with Icons*. Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 1987. Personal meditations on four icons, one of which is the Virgin of Vladimir. Beautiful four-color prints of all four icons.

Pennington, M. Basil. *Mary Today*. New York: Doubleday, 1987. The author of books on contemplative life and prayer writes about the challenge of Mary for all Christians, including himself. Includes basic information on praying the rosary plus other Marian devotions.

Tambasco, Anthony J. *What Are They Saying About Mary?* Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1984. A slim volume that treats post-Vatican II awareness of Mary in Scripture, Mary in theology, Mary in ecumenical perspective, and Marian devotions.

Tavard, George H. *The Thousand Faces of the Virgin Mary*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1996. Historical treatment of Mary from earliest tradition through Vatican II. Includes interesting chapters on Mary in the East, Mary in Protestantism, and Mary in poetry.

Articles

Frizzell, Lawrence. "Mary and the Biblical Heritage." *Marian Studies* XLVI (1995): 26–40. An excellent article about Mary and Jewish family life and the Jewish practices of prayer.

RENEW International Materials

IMPACT Series

IMPACT series (available from RENEW International) aims to connect faith to the wide range of human concerns and personal issues. In the process, participants will be led not only to prayerful reflection and fruitful sharing, but also to concrete actions that influence for the better human attitudes and behaviors

Phalen, John, CSC and James Posluszny. *At Prayer with Mary*. Plainfield, NJ: RENEW International, 1999. Seven-session small community faith-sharing booklet relating Mary's compassion, faith, and integrity to our everyday lives.
To order: <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/atprayerimp.html> or call 1-888-433-3281

Tuoti, Frank X. *Awakening the Mystic Within: Graced Vision*. Plainfield, NJ: RENEW International, 1999. Six-session small community faith-sharing booklet on the universal Christian call to contemplation and the mystical life.
To order: <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/awakeimp.html> or call 1-888-433-3281

Web Site Links

Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary (Marialis cultus), (February 2, 1974), Pope Paul VI.
Paul VI wrote this apostolic exhortation "for the right ordering and development of devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary."
Available online in Spanish, not English.
The site for Spanish:
http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/paul_vi/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_p-vi_exh_19740202_marialis-cultus_sp.html

The Mother of the Redeemer (Redemptoris mater), (March 25, 1987), Pope John Paul II.
This encyclical was written with a view toward the millennium; the "Jubilee of the birth of Jesus Christ at the same time directs our gaze toward his Mother." (#3)
Available online in six languages.

The site for English:
http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25031987_redemptoris-mater_en.html

The site for Spanish:

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25031987_redemptoris-mater_sp.html

By clicking on “Latest” on the home page, you may be able to access timely Vatican documents about Mary. For instance, recently “The Message of Fatima” as released by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith was one of the postings.

“The Message of Fatima” can be reached directly at:

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20000626_message-fatima_en.html

<http://www.christusrex.org/>

This is a vast site, but patience can yield treasures on Mary. Your own preferences can determine your selections. For example, to see some of Giotto’s fourteenth-century paintings of Mary from St. Peter’s Basilica, go to:

<http://www.christusrex.org/www1/giotto/mary.html>

<http://www.usccb.org/catechism/text/index.htm>

(United States Conference of Catholic Bishops–USCCB) The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is online; references above can be located.

<http://www.scborromeo.org/index2.htm>

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is also online at this Catholic parish’s website.

<http://catholic-church.org/cid>

The 1997 Catholic Internet Directory.

<http://www.rc.net/>

RC Net is a leading portal for Catholics on the Internet. Includes diocesan directories, parish Web sites, links to Catholic sites.

<http://www.udayton.edu/mary>

The Mary page, maintained by the Marian Library/International Marian Research Institute at the University of Dayton in Ohio. There is a Mary search engine at the site as well as links to its reports, newsletters, and scholarly publications. Articles from *Marian Studies* are not available online.

<http://www.sspeterpaul.org/VLADIMIR.HTM>

Source for the image of the icon, the Virgin of Vladimir. Courtesy of St. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church, Meriden, Connecticut: <http://www.sspeterpaul.org/index.htm>

<http://www.christusrex.org/www1/citta/B1-Pieta.html>

Source for the image of the Pieta by Michelangelo. Courtesy of Christus Rex, Inc: <http://www.christusrex.org>

<http://www.catholic.org/guadalupe.html>

Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.