

University of Notre Dame
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Mother Of God And Our Mother

You often hear that Mary, Mother of Jesus, is also your mother. Is that only pretty exaggeration?

It startled Mary, the young girl, to hear from the angel that she was to be the Mother of Christ!

"How can this be?" she puzzled. "I am a virgin, vowed to a virginal life."

Then the Angel Gabriel assured her that she would remain a virgin and still be mother of the Saviour. It would be done, not by weak, human agency, but through direct action of the Holy Ghost.

That satisfied Mary. Under illumination of divine grace she saw it all instantly.

She, the woman, would help restore what the first woman, Eve, had plundered. She would become both moral and physical mother of the Redeemer.

She would bring Him into the world at Bethlehem, rear Him at Nazareth, and, on Calvary take from Him the salvation of all humanity into her motherly care. "Mother, behold thy son." All the members of the Mystical Body would be her sons, too.

As mother of men, she would possess power almost measureless. No part, however small, of God's grace would be given unless through her.

Calmly and humbly she accepted the far-reaching burdens and opportunities of this new motherhood. "Be it done unto me, according to Thy word!"

A Mother Of Mercy

What kind of mother is she? Stern, exacting, spiteful? That would be natural. But she is full of grace, above the curse of Adam, outside all the meannesses that come, through the Fall, into the human heart.

She smothers weakness in love. She loves, even sinners, St. Thomas tells us, "with the same love with which she loves her own Son."

And, according to St. Bernard, "the duration of her mercy is unto the end of the sinner's life; the broadness of her mercy is unto the limits of the earth; the height of her mercy is unto heaven; the depth of her mercy is unto the lowest abyss of human sorrow. She is always merciful; she is only merciful; she is our Mother."

Today is the feast of the Annunciation -- the birthday of the "Hail Mary." Take ten minutes tonight to say the beads, because you Notre Dame men, her sons by your own choice, have special claims upon her motherhood. Come to think of it, why not take ten minutes every night the rest of your life for her Rosary! This Mother of Mercy is your life, your sweetness, and your hope!

Passion Sunday -- The draped statues and crucifixes in church will remind you that we are entering upon the most sacred part of Lent. If you would make the last two weeks more meaningful, renew the Lenten penances you shouldered on Ash Wednesday -- more especially if they have recently slipped away from you. Those of us who haven't as yet started Lent might get started immediately.

Tonight at 6:45 in Sacred Heart Church -- The Novena to the Sorrowful Mother.

PRAYERS -- Ill: wife of Dean Baldinger (Science); brother of John Gorey of Morrissey.