

MARY

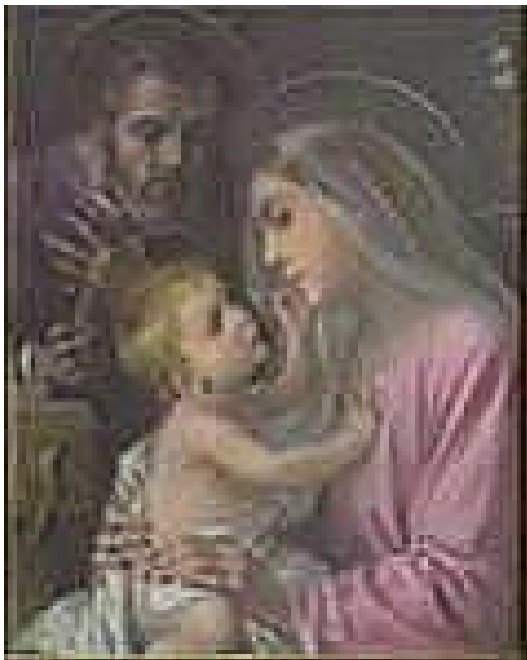


My Objectives:

- What Some See in Mary
- What does the Church teach?
- What does the Church see?

Objections to Marian Doctrine:

- Ever Virgin
 1. “And he (Joseph) did not know her until the day she gave birth.” Matt 1:25
 2. “...he (Jesus) was still speaking when his mother and brothers appeared.” Matt 12:46
 3. “Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?” Matt 13:55
 4. “...and she gave birth to a son, her first born.” Luke 2:7



Objections to Marian Doctrine:

- Conceived w/o Sin:



“All have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God.” Rom 3:23

Objections to Marian Doctrine:

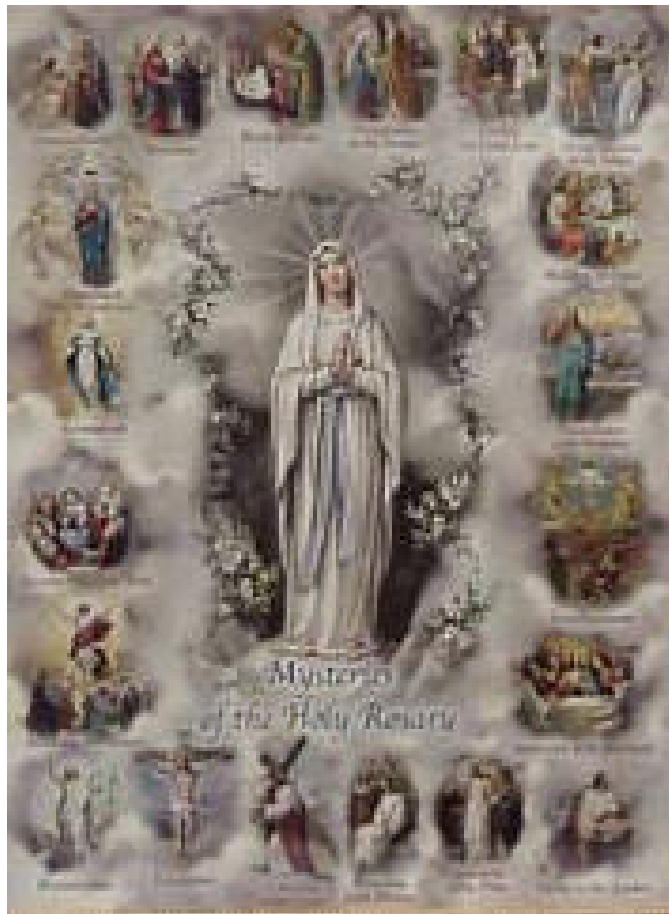
- Worship and Pray to Mary:



1. “...there is salvation in no one else (Jesus).” Acts 4:12
- » 2. “For there is one God and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ.” 1 Tim 2:5

Objections to Marian Doctrine:

- Rosary:



“In praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the gentiles do; for they think they will be heard for their for their many words.” Matt 6:7

Good Luck Charms

Objections to Marian Doctrine:

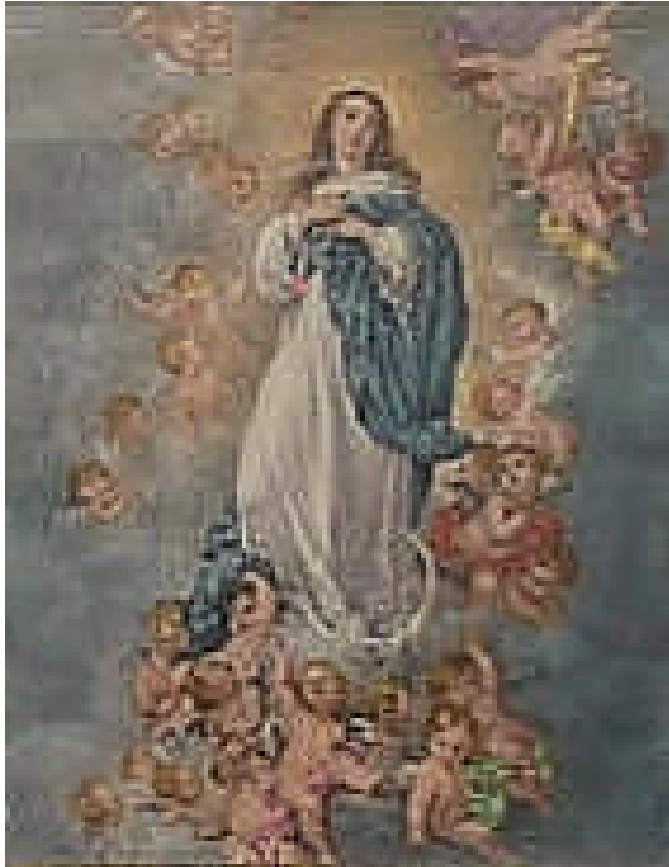
- Statues of Mary & Saints:



- » 1. “You shall have no gods except me. You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness...For I, Yahweh your God, am a jealous God...” Ex 20:4-5
- » 2. “Nevertheless, I have this complaint to make; you have less love now than you used too.” Rev. 2:4-5

Objections to Marian Doctrine:

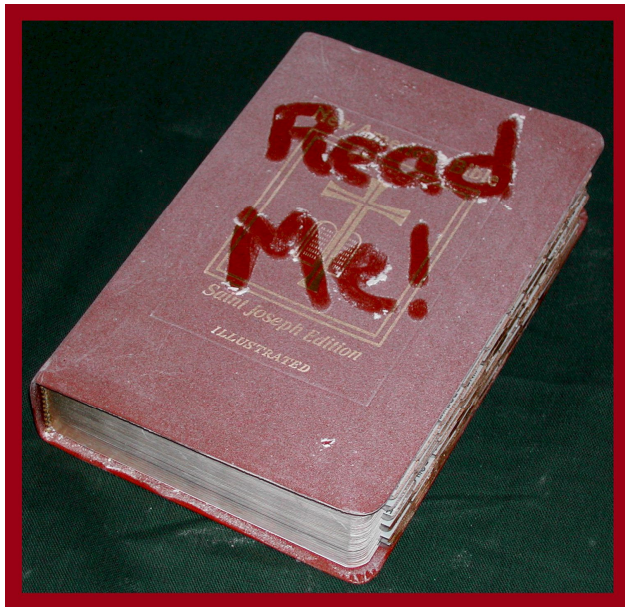
- Assumed into Heaven:



Not in the Bible

Sola Scriptura

- Our Separated brothers who believe that all Divine Revelation is contained in Scripture, make a good case for doubt as you can see.
- But, before we all run over to Second Baptist, let's read one more Scripture.



St. Peter Writes:

- “He (Paul) always writes like this when he deals with this sort of subject (salvation); and this makes some points in his letter hard to understand; these are the points that uneducated and unbalanced people distort in the same way as they distort the rest of scripture—a fatal thing for them to do. You have been warned about this my friends; be careful not to get carried away by the errors of unprincipled people, from the firm ground you are standing on.” 2 Peter 3:16-17

Okay, Let's reflect a bit.

- As Catholics we need to take these issues seriously because there are sincere people both inside and outside the Church who are kept from the “fullness of the truth” of Christ because they have not heard the Catholic response.

Church Teaching:

- Mary is the Theotokos-Mother of God

- » Council of Ephesus 431



- » It took 500 years to firmly establish the doctrine of Jesus being God and of “one essence” with the Father. The doctrine of Mary as Theotokos quickly followed.

Church Teaching:

- Mary is “Ever Virgin”
 - Council of Constantinople 681
 - Three parts to the doctrine of Ever Virgin
 - » Mary was a virgin at Jesus’ conception
 - » Mary’s virginal integrity was intact during Jesus birth
 - » Mary was a virgin the rest of her life



Church Teaching:

- In 1830, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared three separate times to Saint Catherine. The first of these apparitions occurred 18 July, the second 27 November, and the third a short time later. On the second occasion, Sister Catherine records that the Blessed Virgin appeared as if standing on a globe, and bearing a globe in her hands. As if from rings set with precious stones dazzling rays of light were emitted from her fingers. These, she said, were symbols of the graces which would be bestowed on all who asked for them. Sister Catherine adds that around the figure appeared an oval frame bearing in golden letters the words "O Mary, **conceived without sin**, pray for us who have recourse to thee"; on the back appeared the letter M, surmounted by a cross, with a crossbar beneath it, and under all the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, the former surrounded by a crown of thorns, and the latter pierced by a sword.



Church Teaching:

- Mary is the Immaculate Conception

- » Ineffabilis Deus by Pius IX 1854

- » In 1858 Mary appears at Lourdes and announces to Bernadette that “She is the Immaculate Conception”

- » “Hail Mary full of grace.”



Church Teaching:

- Mary Assumed into Heaven

» Munificentissimus Deus Pius XII 1950



What Does the Church See?

- Catholics do not worship Mary, but they do honor her. Honor her as the Mother of God and of the redeemer, The daughter of the Father and spouse of the Holy Spirit, the Queen Mother of Heaven and Earth, and their own Mother. They see her as their exalted advocate, mediator, and dispenser of graces. Because of this gift of sublime grace she far surpasses all creatures, both in heaven and on earth. And they recognize that their very spiritual salvation is “in part” due to her “fiat.”

What Does the Church See?

- Two Models of Salvation:
 - » Legal View
 - » Familial View



Legal View

- Jesus died for our sins
- We believe this and are saved
- Jesus is our only help/mediator in life
 - » Died for us, so we have confidence of his help
 - » The Holy Spirit is given to us also for help
- When we die we go to heaven

Familial View

- At Baptism we become “adopted” into the Family of God
 - » We call God the Father, “Abba”
 - » Mary is our Mother
 - » Jesus is our brother
 - » We will as rightful heirs “inherit” Heaven, just as any child inherits his fathers estate.
- We ask/rely on the entire family’s help to mold and perfect us.
 - » Vine & Branches-no clear distinction from where the vine (Jesus) ends and the branch (us) begins John 15:4
 - » In the Family, there is no competition for Glory-in fact the Father chooses to share his Glory with his saints. Rom 8:28-29
 - » God the Father is Honored best when his works are honored*
 - » Greater than the miracle of creation is the work of God in our sanctification—usually through/with a human.*
 - » Mary is his greatest work, his masterpiece, human perfection
 - » Jesus bestows the greatest honor on his mother

- “our salvation is not in sight” “For we must be content to hope that we shall be saved” Rom 8:24-25
 - » We are confident we are co-heirs with Christ because:
 - » We call God our Father- “moved by the Spirit” Rom 8
 - » We have his name-Christians
 - » Our Father showers us with blessings
 - » He forgives us when we ask-Reconciliation
 - » He disciplines us when we disobey his home rules
 - » We eat at the same table-Mystery of the Eucharist
 - » We have our Mother’s intercession for us
 - » We also have the intercession of the entire “Community of the Saints”
 - » As we mature spiritually, we reflect our Father’s image
- All we have to do is remain “in Him”-in Jesus– in the Vine-Obey the Father’s rules—Don’t get “thrown out” of the house.

- The growing of the Body of Christ is in fact our work.
 - Christ has identified Himself completely with the Church, His Body. Eph.
 - We are called to extend his saving work “For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.” 1Cor. 3:9
- Each of us is to manifest Jesus to the world. Mary is simply a Christian, the first and most perfect Christian.
 - » “for God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” Phil 2:13
 - » “I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the Church.” Col 1:24
 - » In this work, all humanity owes “in part” to Mary for her “yes”—God’s plan “waited” for her response

- To “honor” Mary is to honor the Father.
- Like a painting and the artist
- Like creation and the Creator
- Like a son and the father

What the Church Sees!!

- **Mary as the Woman of Scripture**
 - Mary as the Woman of Valor
 - Mother of Jesus/God
 - Mother of all Christians
- **Mary as Mother and Queen Mother**
 - Mary as our Advocate, Mediator, Intercessor
- **Mary as the Arc of the New Covenant**
 - Mary as the warrior
 - Mary as the New Eve
 - Mary as Ever Virgin
 - Mary as the Seat of Mercy

What the Church Sees!!

- Mary is the “**Woman**” of Scripture
 - » Woman of Genesis: Genesis (3:15): "I will make you enemies of each other: you and the woman, your offspring and her offspring. It will crush your head and you will strike its heel."



What the Church Sees!!



- » **Woman of Revelation:** Rev 12 –(Bookends)
- » “She (the woman) was pregnant, and in labor, crying aloud in the pangs of childbirth. Then a second sign appeared in the sky, a huge red dragon which...stopped in front of the woman as she was having the child, so that he could eat it as soon as it was born from its mother. The woman brought a male child into the world, the son who is to *rule the nations with an iron scepter*, and the child was taken straight up to God and to his throne. Then the dragon was enraged with the woman and went away to make war on the rest of her children, that is, all who obey God’s commandments and bear witness for Jesus.”*
- »

What the Church Sees!!



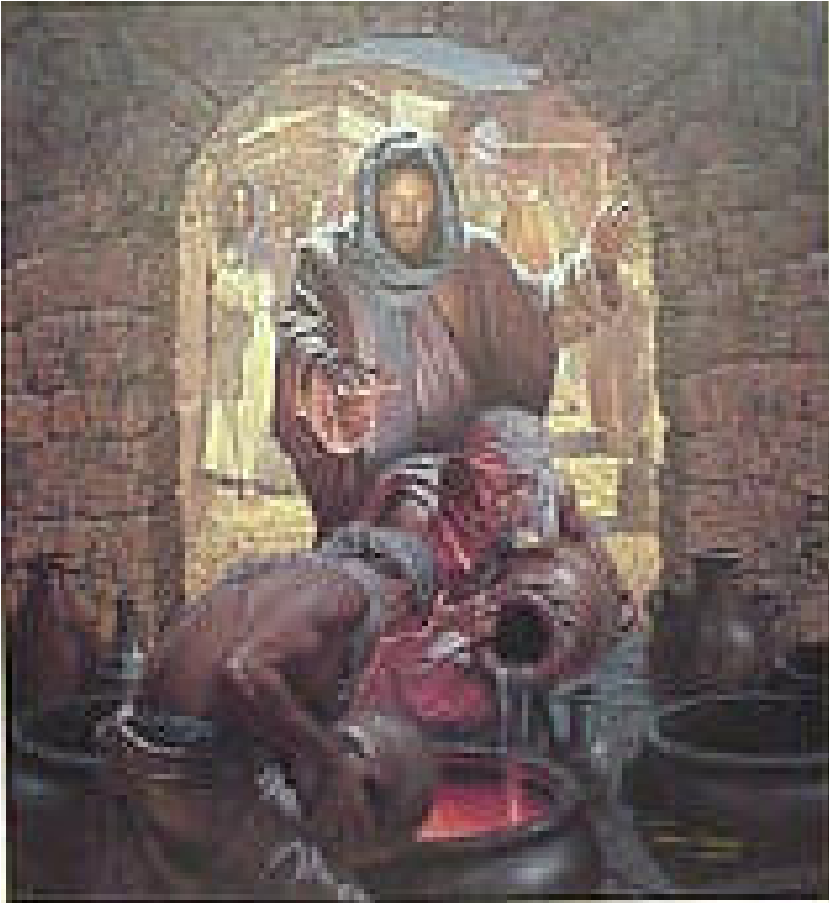
- » **Woman of Calvary**-John 19:25
- » “Woman behold your son”

What the Church Sees!!

» **Woman** of Galatians Gal 4:4 “When the appointed time came, God sent his son, born of a woman...”



What the Church Sees!!



- » The **Woman** of Cana-Jesus “changes/elevates” his mother’s relationship with him.
-John 2:4

The Woman of Scripture

- Constant warfare with Satan and his minions
- As such she is the “**Woman of Valor**”
 - » Deborah
 - » Judith
 - » Queen Esther
- She “brings forth” our redemption
- She “points” to Jesus, and reflects the words of the Father at the Transfiguration “Listen to him;” when at Cana she says, “Do whatever he tells you.”

The Woman of Scripture

- She is our model of suffering
 - » Virginity
 - » Presentation at the Temple
 - » Jesus “lost” at the Temple
 - » Jesus’ Passion
- She is our model of Humility
- She is our hope of Glory
 - » Assumption
 - » Coronation
- She is our Mother



Mary is the Queen Mother

Queen of the Book of Revelations



- » Crowned with 12 Stars
- » Queen of the new Israel i.e. the Church and Mother of all Christians
- » “rest of her children, that is all who obey God’s commandments and bear witness for Jesus.”

– Mother at Calvary

- » “Woman, this is your son.’ Then to the disciple he said, ‘This is your mother’. John 19:26
- » **Mother is both a noun and a verb, therefore the role of mother is elevated to an office**

Mary is the Queen Mother

- **Gebirah**



- » Title of the Office of Queen Mother

- » East Vs West

- » Solomon had 700 wives

- » Difference of Wife & Mother

- » Bathsheba as wife: “She knelt down and did homage to the king (David), and the king said, ‘What do you wish?’”
1 K 16-17, 31

- » Bathsheba as mother: “So Bathsheba went to King Solomon to speak to him about Adonijah; the king rose to meet her and bowed before her; he then sat down on his throne. A seat was brought for the mother of the king, and she sat down at his right hand. ...’My mother’, the king answered ‘make your request, for I will not refuse you.’”

1 K 2:16-20

Office with Authority

- Say to the King and Queen Mother: “take a lowly seat, for your beautiful *crown* has come down from your head...Lift up your eyes and see those who come from the north. Where is your flock that was given you, your beautiful flock?” Jer 13:18,20

Office with Authority

- Duties of the Office: Advocate, Helper, and Intercessor



- Adonijah asked his mother Bathsheba to intercede for him to the King, his brother. “Pray, ask King Solomon-*he will not refuse you-* to give me Abishag the Sunammite as my wife.” 1K 2:20
- “The sayings of Lemeul king of Massa, taught him by his mother: ...speak yourself, on behalf of the dumb, on behalf of all the unwanted; speak yourself, pronounce a just verdict, uphold the rights of the poor, of the needy.”
Prov. 31 1, 8-9

Mary is the Queen Mother

- Queen Mother of Prophecy:



» “Hear then O house of David! ...the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanu-el.” Isaiah 7:13,14

Mary is the Queen Mother

- Queen Mother of Prophecy:

» “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Lk 1:31-33



How would you react if you knew you would be the Queen Mother?

Our Model of Humility

Mary is Our Mother and the Queen Mother

- We can see the beautiful and rich similarities of the interaction of the Queen Mother and the care for her people and our own mother the mother of our family, both physical and spiritual.



Mary as the Arc of the New Covenant

Arc of the Old Covenant



- Made of Gold
- Led the Hebrew army into battle
- Placed in the Holy of Holies in the Desert Tabernacle and the Temple
- Accessed only by high priest—once per year
- Holy by what it contained: Mana, Aaron's Rod, Tablets of the Law
- Could not be touched, except by Priests

Luke Saw Mary as the Arc of the New Covenant

- 2 Samuel 6:
 - 2 David arose...Judah
 - 9 How can the arc
 - 10 House of Obed
 - 11 Three months
 - 12 David rejoices
 - 15 shouting
 - 16 Leaping and Dancing
- Luke 1
 - 39 Mary arose...Judah
 - 43 How can the mother..
 - 40 House of Zehariah
 - 56 Three months
 - 47 Mary's spirit rejoices
 - 42 Loud cry
 - 41 Baby leaps in Elizabeth

Mary as the Arc of the New Covenant

- The presence of God's Shekina Glory overshadowed the Arc.
- The Arc mediated the presence of God to Isreal
- Isreal sought mercy of God from the throne upon the arc the Mercy Seat
- The Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary
- Mary brings the presence of Christ to the world
- We have seen how Mary's throne and Office as Mother is where we go for mercy

“Then the sanctuary of God in heaven opened, and the Arc of the Covenant could be seen inside it...Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown” Rev. 11:19-12:1

The role of the Arc of the Covenant has been transferred to Mary; she is our weapon against the powers of hell; rosary, intercession, and she is our advocate and mother in our spiritual family.

“All Generations will call me Blessed”



- These words uttered by Mary when she visited Elizabeth have certainly been fulfilled throughout the generations of time.
- The “cult” of Mary has resonated with the people of God in spite of doubting theologians, little material in Scripture, the feminist movement and the reformation.
- In 431 in Ephesus after the declaration of Theotokos, all 195 Bishops were paraded through town on the shoulders of the people.

“All Generations will call me Blessed”



- Songs, poetry, painting and icons reflect the people’s realization of who Mary is and her importance to them long before it is made official by the Church.
- There are 114 surahs in the Koran; only one bears a woman’s name #19 Miryam or Mary. The Koran speaks of the virgin birth.

“All Generations will call me Blessed”



- There was little success in converting the Indians of Mexico until Mary appeared and virtually all were converted to Catholicism.
- Over 200 verified appearances of Mary since 1930 and continuing today.
- In Medijagore, a town of 250 families, over 20 million visitors, even in war.
- More people have visited Fatima than Mecca.

“All Generations will call me Blessed”



- Jesus says “Honor your Father and Mother.” He is the perfect son *par excellence*.
 - He preserved her from sin
 - Assumed her into heaven
 - Crowned her Queen of Heaven and Earth

“All Generations will call me Blessed”

- “Taken up to heaven she did not lay aside this saving office but by her manifold intercession continues to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation. By her maternal charity, she cares for the brethren of her Son, who still journey on earth surrounded by dangers and difficulties, until they are led to their blessed home. Therefore the Blessed Virgin is invoked in the Church under the titles of Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, and Mediatrix. This, however, is so understood that it neither takes away anything from nor adds anything to the dignity and efficacy of Christ the one Mediator.”

Lumen Gentium 62