

CATHOLIC DOCTRINES OF MARY

By Mark Moore

1. Immaculate Conception. Her conception was divinely protected from the passage of Adam's original sin nature. Thus she was free from the guilt of original sin. By predestination she did not, nor could she sin. Mary is thoroughly sinless. (Pious IX, December 8, 1854)
2. Assumption. She was assumed, body and soul, into heaven in like manner as was Jesus. She was not buried in earthly soil. This doctrine was proclaimed to be necessary for salvation (Pious XII, Nov. 1, 1950.) No clear reference to this is found before the sixth century.
3. Ever Virgin. Mary never had sex, even after her marriage to Joseph. The apparent "brothers and sisters" (cf. Mark 3:31; 6:3; John 2:12; 7:1-10; Acts 1:14; Galatians 1:19), are either cousins or stepbrothers, children of Joseph by a previous marriage.
4. Queen of Heaven. This involves her role as mother of Jesus and our primary intercessor in heaven. She is the first lady of heaven. She is seen, in a sense, as the mother of all living creatures for she gave birth to Jesus, who completed, perfected and redeemed all creation. Thus she was responsible for his role of redemption.
5. Mother of God. (*Theotokos*) The term was first used about 320 A.D. and was approved in 431 A.D. at the council of Ephesus to combat those who denied the deity of Jesus. The term was originally intended to be a statement about the deity of Jesus. Unfortunately, it can easily be misunderstood to be a statement about the deity of Mary.
6. Co-Redemptrix. Because of her involvement in the plan of salvation, Mary is said to have been part of our redemption. In the 12th century, references began to appear, not only to her involvement in Jesus' birth but also in his death. It is taught that her mediatorial prayers played a part in the salvation act of Calvary. Thus, today, Catholics are taught to pray to Mary, believing that her mediatorial prayers still play a part in their salvation, healing, and general help. Below is a prayer from a contemporary Missal (Sept. 4-Nov. 26, 1988), used in Catholic Mass. It is a standard Catholic prayer:

THE MEMORARE

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother, To you I come; before you I stand sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate! Despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

The O.T. Connections of the Magnificat

Based on Koontz, "Mary's Magnificat" *Bibliotheca Sacra* 116 (Oct. 1959): 336-49

"Of special note is her close acquaintance with what may be termed the Magnificat of Hannah (1 Sam. 2:1-10) and the Magnificat of David (Psalm 136). Mary's hymn is saturated with these passages as well as with many other thoughts and phrases from the Old Testament."

Phrase	O.T. Comparisons
"My soul doth magnify the Lord"	Psalm 34:3; 35:9; 103:1-2; 145:21; Isaiah 61:10
"My spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior"	Habakkuk 3:18
"For he bath looked upon the low estate of his handmaid"	1 Samuel 1:11; Genesis 30:13; Malachi 3:12
"He that is mighty hath done to me great things"	Psalm 126:3; 71:19-21; Job 5:9
"holy is his name"	Psalm 111:9; Exodus 15:11; Isaiah 47:4; 6:3
"And his mercy is unto generations on them that fear Him"	Psalm 103:17; Exodus 20:6; 1 Kings 8:23; Psalm 118:4; 145:19; 147:11
"He hath showed strength with his arm"	Psalm 89:11; 98:1; Exodus 15:6-7; Isaiah 40:10; 51:9; 52:10
"He hath scattered the proud"	Psalm 33:10; 59:11; Job 5:12-13; Daniel 4:37
"In the imagination of their heart"	Genesis 6:5; 8:21; Deuteronomy 29:19
"He hath put down princes"	Job 12:19
"And hath exalted them of low degree"	Job 5:11; 24:24; Psalm 107:40-41; 113:6-8; Ezekiel 17:24
"The hungry he hath filled with good things"	Psalm 107:9; 34:10; 146:7; Isaiah 65:13
"He hath given help to Israel his servant"	Isaiah 41:8
"That he might remember mercy"	Psalm 98:3
"As he spake unto our fathers"	Micah 7:20; Genesis 18:18; 22:17; Psalm 105:8; Isaiah 46:3, 4; 49:14-16; 63:7-16; Jeremiah 31:3; 33:24-26
"Toward Abraham and his seed forever"	Genesis 17:19