

## The Immaculate Conception in the Work of Redemption



**Nothing in the whole Bible is so radiantly childlike in the writing, and so suitably childlike in the reading, as the four Gospels. It was God as a Child Who made them so. God could be God without Mary. But to become a Child, God needed Mary, as no child has ever needed a mother in the history of mankind.**

**(The Mother of God, The Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Still River, MA, 1999, Pg. 82.)**

The Immaculate Conception was God's desire to give us a Mother who would be fashioned more nearly to His Heart than any other creature. She would be entrusted with the care of His children who had been separated from Him by the woman He had first ordained to be the mother of the living, the first Eve, made from the flesh of man. The God Who created the first human beings in a paradise of intimacy with Him and bestowed on them preternatural gifts that should have made it easy for them to obey a simple command not to eat of a forbidden fruit, chose to disobey Him. God made us in His image, free, as is the nature of love, and since He is Love, He will never and can never force our free will. Eve ate of the forbidden fruit and gave it to Adam to eat of it, too. That original sin of disobedience has afflicted all humankind with its concupiscence and tendency to want to be one's own god. In His infinite love and mercy, God refashioned a new Eve and chose to become her little child so that He might restore the entirety of our human nature, from the point of conception in the womb to the point of death, not merely to its original splendor as He created it, but to elevate it to His own divine nature through the Redeeming work of His Divine Son and the sanctifying grace of His Spirit. Henceforth, by His Indwelling Presence in our history, in our nature, in our very selves, we share in His divine nature as children of God. Without harm to Mary's free will and in anticipation of her fiat and the redeeming grace of the Word Who would take flesh in her womb at the fullness of time, God gave her a fullness of grace and the gift of preservation from even the slightest touch of original sin, or any personal sin, so she would be the most holy and pure vessel suitable to bear God into our world. She is Theotokos, God-bearer! Because of Mary's unique vocation to be Mother of God, this privilege of preservation, not liberation, from sin is a privilege bestowed on no other creature. Her relationship to the three persons of the Most Holy Trinity is unique, and her power as Mother of the Son of God, the King of kings, is greater than any Queen-Mother known to the kings of the whole earth. As Mother of the Sacred Humanity, our brother in nature as well as in grace, she is Mother to the whole Christ, His humanity as her Son in the flesh, conceived of the Holy Spirit, and of His divinity as the Son of God, generated by the love between Father and Son. As she is Mother of the physical Christ, so also is she Mother of the Mystical Christ, His Mystical Body, the Church, all of us.

What favor we have in our Queen-Mother, chosen to be the Patroness of our beloved land under this unique privilege of her Immaculate Conception and that inherent privilege of her Perpetual Virginity, for she belonged solely to God for His purpose--our salvation. With her fiat to the Archangel Gabriel she became the Immaculate Tabernacle of the Indwelling God. As that Immaculate Tabernacle, she is the inspiration and exquisite help for each of us to become, likewise, tabernacles of that Indwelling Presence. This is the central theme of this devotion to Our Lady under the title of **“Our Lady of America, the Immaculate Virgin,”** and **“Our Lady of the Divine Indwelling, handmaid of Him Who dwells within.”** The Most Holy Trinity in heaven shares its intimate inner family life with us through the Incarnation of Jesus in the earthly Trinity of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Praised be God!

Can we ever detract from devotion to Jesus by our devotion to Mary? Can we ever outdo the glory God has bestowed on his Beloved, daughter of the Father, Mother of the Son, and Spouse of the Holy Spirit? Many great theologians and doctors of the Church don't think so. The following quotes are taken from the previously quoted book, **THE MOTHER OF GOD, and provide so much food for ponderance.**

**If the Son is a King, the Mother who begot Him is rightly and truly considered a Queen and Sovereign. (Saint Athanasius)**

**O most holy Virgin, receive us under thy protection, if thou wilt see us saved; for we have no hope of salvation but through thy means. (St. Hilary of Poitiers)**

**Of Him Who is God and man art thou the Mother, Virgin before birth, Virgin in birth, and Virgin after birth. (St. Cyril of Jerusalem)**

**She was chosen for all eternity to be Mother of God, that those who could not be saved according to the rigor of Divine justice might be so with the help of her sweet mercy and powerful intercession.... (St. John Chrysostom)**

**God would not become man without the consent of Mary: in the first place, that we might feel ourselves under great obligation to her, and secondly, that we might understand that the salvation of all is left to the care of the Blessed Virgin... It is through Mary that we are able to eat the Bread of Heaven every day; it is through her prayers that God inspires us to receive It and grants us the grace to receive It worthily. As Eve induced man to eat of the forbidden fruit which brought death upon us, so it is right that Mary should prompt us to eat the Bread which gives us life... This divine Mother is that powerful rod with which the violence of the infernal enemies is conquered. ...Queen of the world... Tabernacle of God...the Celestial Ladder by which the King of Heaven descends to earth and man ascends to Heaven. (St. Peter Damian)**

**She opens the abyss of the mercy of God to whomsoever she wills, when she wills, and as she wills, so that there is no sinner, however great, who is lost if Mary protects him. (St. Bernard of Clairvaux)**

As St. Louis De Montfort would say, it is hard to imagine anyone being saved without devotion to Mary, Mother of Jesus, Mother of God, for she is our Mother of Mercy.

How beautifully Our Lady of America echoes these beliefs in her message to us through Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil when she spoke of Jesus as the center of all their love in the Holy Family, which was an earthly paradise where God walked among men. So she

wishes our homes to be. **“The Divine Trinity will dwell in your midst only if you are faithful in practicing the virtues of our life at Nazareth. Then, you also, my children, you also will become another paradise. God will then walk among you and you will have peace.”** (Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil, The Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA, Pgs. 8, 18, 22.)

Our Lady of America affirmed what these great teachers believed when she spoke of her role as Mediatrix of Grace, and that her Immaculate Heart is the channel through which the graces of the Sacred Heart are given to men. She spoke of the Divine Indwelling as her life, for she was always conscious of God’s Presence working in and through her. She truly is and was the Immaculate Tabernacle of the Indwelling God, as St. Peter Damian proclaimed. When Our Lady speaks of reformation of life, renewal, she is always addressing this sanctification from within, through the Divine Indwelling. Our Lady was anxious to impress on Sister the greatness of this gift of God to us, His Divine Presence within our souls through sanctifying grace. **She asked that we study the doctrine of the Divine Indwelling seriously so that the Divine Presence becomes an intimate and necessary part of our daily living. The doctrine of the Divine Indwelling is the doctrine of sanctifying grace. It is the central theme of this devotion, the means whereby the Immaculate Heart of Mary will triumph over Satan.** Let us heed the Church doctors’ wisdom and seek refuge in the arms of so wondrous a Mother! If ever mankind needed such a Mother, it is now! Let us help our dear Mother save those of her children who will not save themselves.

**Our Lady showed herself to me today as the Mother of Mercy. With her arms extended, her blue mantle affording a safe refuge for the sinner, she said, “I am the Mother of Mercy. Under my mantle I will hide my children. The justice of God will not reach them if they seek refuge ‘neath the protection of my mercy. My Son gives to me all those souls who come to me with confidence, calling upon my aid. Their salvation is in my hands. I will obtain for them the necessary graces to save their souls.**

**Come to me, poor suffering and frightened ones. I am your Mother. Never will I forsake you. Only come to me with a wholehearted and loving trust. Place your souls into my keeping. I am that faithful Mother who never forsakes her children. Honor me by your confidence and love. This I desire and ask of you, my poor children. Do not deny the wishes of your Mother.”** (Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil’s May 5, 1957 letter.)

Since so many of us are deeply distressed by the direction in which our world, our Nation and our Church are heading, let us heed the advice St. Catherine of Siena to Pope Gregory XI, “Up father, like a man!” when she induced him to cease being a puppet of the French kings and return the papacy from Avignon in France back to the Eternal City in Rome where it belonged. How she prayed to Our Lady for this cause

**I have recourse to you, dear Mary, and I place before you my petition in behalf of the Church, the sweet Spouse of Christ, your ineffable Son, and in behalf of His vicar on earth, the Holy Father, so that light may be given to him to wisely and prudently reform the Holy Church. [Let us pray for such reform in our Church today!]**

**By thy Holy and Immaculate Conception, O Mary, deliver us from evil!**

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