

## LESSON 29: MARY, OUR MOTHER AND QUEEN

Jesus asked Mary, His own Mother, to be our Mother too, the day she and St. John stood at the foot of His Cross. Mary actually became the Mother of the Church when she bravely said "yes" to God's plan.

God prepared Mary in a very special way for her role in our salvation. He allowed her to be the one person in the world, besides Jesus, who was conceived without original sin. That is why she is called "**Immaculate Conception**".

Mary brought Jesus into our world, and she lived her whole life without sin. We are wise to ask Mary to pray for us, because Jesus always listens to His Mother. We please God when we try to imitate the virtues of Mary. Mary's greatest desire was to do His will, and she did it in each hour of her life.

Now Mary is the queen of Heaven, but she still does whatever God wills. His will is that she remains a loving Mother in our lives, leading us to Jesus and our heavenly home.

The angel's greeting to Mary:

*"Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you. Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."* (Luke 1: 28-33)

*"Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."* (Luke 1: 38)

### Words to know:

**Immaculate Conception:** the special gift God gave to the Blessed Virgin Mary of being free from original sin from the first moment of her life.

**Full of Grace:** all holy, being free from sin. This was the angel's greeting to Mary.

### Questions and Answers

1	<b>Was anyone among the descendants of Adam ever preserved from original sin?</b> Besides Jesus, Mary alone among the descendants of Adam, has been preserved from original sin. Because she was chosen to be the Mother of God, she was "full of grace" (Luke 1:28) and hence, free of sin from the first instance of her existence. For this reason, the Church celebrates her Immaculate Conception.
2	<b>Whom did God choose to be the mother of God?</b> God prepared Mary in a very special way for her role in our salvation.
3	<b>Why was Mary called Immaculate Conception?</b> He allowed her to be the one person in the world, besides Jesus, who was conceived without original sin. That is why she is called "Immaculate Conception".

### Match the following

1	Immaculate Conception		Greeting to Mary
2	Full of Grace		Mary
3	Queen of Heaven and Earth		The special gift God gave to the Blessed Virgin Mary, for being free from original sin.

## **The Magnificat - Mary's Song of Praise**

"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever."