

**WHY WE SHOULD HAVE CONFIDENCE IN MARY'S PRAYERS:  
THE VIRGIN MARY AS OUR QUEEN MOTHER**



*Growing in the Vineyard*

The newsletter for Catholic Lay Ministry Formation Students

FALL 2017

Catholics have a long tradition of devotion to the Virgin Mary. The Hail Mary, a most beloved prayer, issues easily from the lips of Catholics, as it has for many ages. What is the basis for this confidence in Our Lady? How can we know, from the biblical record, that Mary is truly our Queen and Mother? To answer these questions, we must turn to the First Book of Kings:

*So Bathsheba went to King Solomon, to speak to him on behalf of Adonijah. The king rose to meet her, and bowed down to her; then he sat on his throne, and had a throne brought for the king's mother, and she sat on his right. Then she said, "I have one small request to make of you; do not refuse me." And the king said to her, "Make your request, my mother; for I will not refuse you." (1 Kings 2:19-20)*

The title *Gebirah*, (Hebrew) meaning "Great Lady" or "Queen Mother" was a royal title and an office which was bestowed upon the mothers of the Kings of Israel. The *Gebirah*, the Queen Mother of the Kingdom of Judah, was the most important and influential woman in the royal court and the king's chief counselor. Sacred Scripture indicates that the *Gebirah* assumed a throne alongside her son [1 Kings 2:19] and exercised her role as counselor [2

Chronicles 22:3] and intercessor to the king [1 Kings 2:13-21].

The title of Queen Mother in the Old Testament is a *type*, i.e., a reality that finds fulfillment in the New Testament that was foreshadowed in the Old Testament. In this case, the Queen Mother is a type of the Blessed Virgin Mary as Queen Mother in the New Israel, the Church. Upon her Assumption into heaven her Son, Jesus Christ, placed her beside His throne as mother of the King of Kings. From this heavenly throne, she exercises her role as our Queen and Mother; she brings our prayers and requests before her divine Son. Unlike the queen-mothers of the Old Testament, however, Mary is the sinless Virgin, a masterpiece of grace, a model of perfection, endowed with heavenly privileges that none of the queen-mothers of old possessed, or could even imagine.

St. Louis de Montfort, in his masterpiece, *True Devotion to Mary*, tells us that we should, therefore, have complete confidence in approaching Our Lady with all of our needs, as there is nothing Jesus will not grant at her request.

*"... the Almighty made her the sole custodian of his treasures and the sole dispenser of his graces. She can now ennoble, exalt and enrich all she chooses. She can lead them along the narrow path to heaven and guide them through the narrow gate to life. She can give a royal throne, scepter and crown to whom she wishes ... This prompts us to go to her in every need of body and soul with great simplicity, trust and affection. We implore our Mother's help always, everywhere, and for everything. We pray to her to be enlightened in our doubts, to be put back on the right path when we go astray, to be protected when we are tempted, to be strengthened when we are weakening, to be lifted up when we fall into sin, to be encouraged when we are losing heart, to be rid of our scruples, to be consoled in the trials, crosses and disappointments of life. Finally, in all our afflictions of body and soul, we naturally turn to Mary for help ..."*



Reverend Donald A. Guglielmi, S.T.D., Professor of Spiritual Theology, St. Joseph's Seminary & College New York. Forthcoming publication: *Staritsa: The Spiritual Motherhood of Catherine Doherty*



**365 Days with Mary**

The *365 Days with Mary* app was developed by Our Sunday Visitor as a valuable resource for the 100th anniversary celebration of the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima which occurred in 1917. This free Marian app is designed to bring you closer to Jesus through Mary by fostering the habit/practice of daily devotion to her and comes to you fully loaded with a variety of Marian resources—text, video and audio! Check out your app store and download for free!

# A Blessed Mother Who Can Love Us Perfectly

Spending eight years at Our Lady of the Assumption School, I came to appreciate many Marian Devotions. Everyday at noon during recess the church bells would ring and every child, including me, would be on their knees praying the Angelus. In May, how I would hope that I would be selected to crown Our Blessed Mother, and I loved being part of the Rosary processions. I came to appreciate Our Lady of the Assumption, and learned much about this woman called “Our Mother.”

In contrast, my own mother was nothing like this “Mother” that I learned about at school. She was not “gentle,” but tough, not “loving,” but firm; and not “always with me.” Every afternoon, she was off to work at the factory. She was also nothing like my classmates’ mothers who stayed at home, sat at the kitchen table, or came to school events.

How did I first reconcile the differences between these “two mothers”? Initially, it was watching old television shows. I wanted to be like those TV moms, whose lives were more like the “Mother” that I learned about in school - loving, always together, and centered on the family. However, as I grew, the culture surrounding me was anything but supportive of these deep desires. A women’s value was now placed on what she did outside the home.

In these confusing times, I could not relate to either “mother” as I tried to find myself in the world. We have all heard the stories about individuals who lived in and for the things of this world, and I was no different; it nearly destroyed me. When my mother could not bear the life I was living, I would see her praying the Rosary for my salvation. But these “beads” became symbols of defiance; I wanted nothing to do with either mother.

For both “mothers” I can now only imagine the hurt watching me destroy myself. As you must realize by now, God had other plans for me. God opened my eyes to the truth and poured out his love and Mercy. In and through this love, God also gave me the necessary time and tools to reconcile with my earthly mother. Sadly, my relationship with my “heavenly” mother fell by the wayside. I was so in love with my Savior, Jesus Christ, why did I need “her”? I was again trying to fit this “Mother” into my experiences, my world, and it just wasn’t working.

What I have since come to realize through God’s Grace, is that Our Mother Mary is not of this world. Yes, she is human in all things, but sin; but her beauty is being the one full of grace, God’s love; God’s chosen mother, and ours. Mary transcends this very human world, that once tried to devour me. She has been given the ability to fill the voids in our human condition, she is Our Lady of Peace, Our Lady of Consolation and Victory. She also transcends cultures and diversity, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Fatima, and Czestochowa.

Happily, the rosaries that I once looked at as a symbol of defiance have become my peace. I hold tightly to the cross when I pray the rosary and the beads are the help in the journey. My mother, despite her outward toughness, never let go because she realized that we all have a Blessed Mother who can love us perfectly and bring us to where we need to go.



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