

# The great privilege

- St. John the Evangelist, rapt in ecstasy on the Island of Patmos, beheld a most wondrous vision. He tells us that he saw "a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars" (Apoc. 12:1).

**Who is this woman?**

## The Immaculata



- Of all pure creatures she is the most excellent and the most exalted.

- Her throne in Heaven is set above, not only those of the greatest of the Saints, but even above those of the highest of the Angels.

- "He that is mighty," she exclaims, "hath done great things to me." In veritable truth has the Almighty done for her great things, and immeasurably greater than He has done for any other whomsoever.

- What Our Lady especially referred to when she broke out into those inspired words was, no doubt, the fact that God had chosen her to be His Mother.

- **Such a dignity surpasses every other that could be conferred on a pure creature, since it brings the creature into the most intimate and direct relationship with the Creator.**

# The glory of Mary

The saints could never praise Mary enough, meditate sufficiently on her glories, or fully investigate the meaning of her nature and her mission theologically.



# The Dignity of the Immaculata



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# Who are you O, Immaculata?

• The angels often ask one another: *Quae est ista?* Who can she possibly be? (Cf. Canticle 3:6; 8:5). For the Most-High kept her concealed from them. Or if He did reveal anything to them, it was nothing compared to what He withheld.

• Again and again we hear from the mouths of the Saints the astonished cry: “Who are you, O Immaculata?” Mortal man is speechless before the countless miracles and mysteries that have their origin in her. She stands there alone in her perfection and power as God’s masterpiece.



• Her role in Christ’s work of redemption is unique: she takes part in it as the new Eve and Co-Redemptrix; she applies the fruits of redemption to all her children as Mediatrix of All Graces. We owe to her all the graces that we have received personally.

• She is also the great sign in Heaven, which leads the Christian army in the combat against Satan. She is victorious in all God’s battles. Particularly during the latter times, though, she is there as the last means of salvation that God gives the world. Her heart becomes the final refuge of the persecuted and oppressed children of God, who try to stand their ground faithfully beneath the cross of Christ.

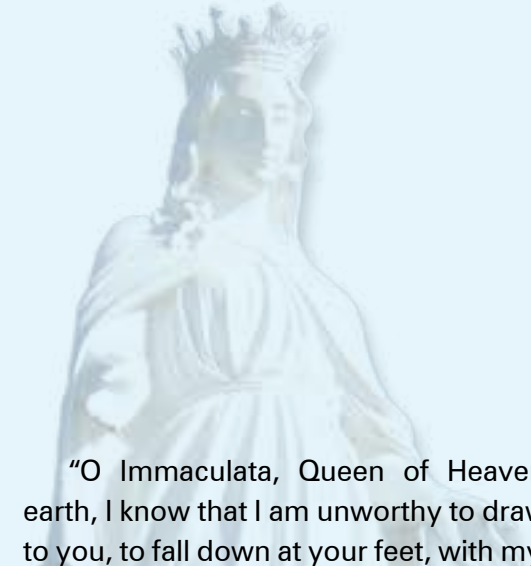


• **Her children, her knights, enlist under her banner; they are her "possession and property" and make up the little army that endures the supreme test and is, at the last, victorious over the superior force arrayed against it, for "in the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph!"**

• The more deeply someone penetrates into the mystery of Mary, the more he becomes inflamed with love for her, and the more he sees God’s mighty deeds in her, the better he comes to know God’s nature. Above all, however, he then also lives more in accordance with God’s will and receives from this contemplative love the strength to live out his calling.

• St. Maximilian Kolbe wanted the Cities of the Immaculata to become universities and Marian academies that continually elaborate the Church’s teaching on Mary’s greatness, for the greater glory of God and for the greatest possible benefit for souls.

## Prayer of St. Maximilian



“O Immaculata, Queen of Heaven and earth, I know that I am unworthy to draw near to you, to fall down at your feet, with my head bowed to the ground.

But because I love you very much, I dare to ask you that you would be so kind as to tell me who you are!

For I would like to get to know you better and better, boundlessly, and to love you more and more ardently, without any limits whatsoever.

And I long to tell other souls, too, who you are, so that more and more souls might come to know you ever more perfectly and to love you ever more ardently.

Indeed, I yearn for you to become the Queen of all the hearts that are beating on earth and ever will beat — and for this to happen as quickly as possible.”