

Mary's Faith

- This is a reference to Mary's faith that she could be a mother and yet remain a virgin, impossible though that may have seemed.
- She willingly gave her *fiat* to the Archangel Gabriel and conceived of the Holy Ghost. Her faith lasted not only for that moment, but throughout her entire life, permeating her dual state as both a mere creature, whilst being at the same time the Mother of God.
- Her faith required no evidence, no material manifestations. She believed without seeing. True faith.



There can be few more profitable ways of spending our leisure time than in learning about the virtues of the Blessed Virgin Mary and schooling ourselves to put them into daily practice in our own lives as a matter of course.

It is not an onerous burden, and by taking it up we shall surely earn many graces from Our Lady in our lives.



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The Virtues of the Blessed Virgin Mary (part I)



**Mary's Virtues
in relation to God**

Mary's Hope

- Hope is Mary's assurance that God would sustain her through all of life's trials and hardships and would bring her to eternal life when her time came.

- Theologians tell us that God, in the first moment of Mary's conception, infused into her soul together with faith and charity, the glorious virtue of hope. She was calm, radiant with peace and trustful of the future, enabling her to say: "It is good for me to adhere to my God, to put my hope in the Lord God." Despite the bitterness of the worst trials that beset her, her hope in God never faltered, growing only stronger at each turn.

- All of us who are afflicted, embittered and disheartened by adversity need to consider the example given us by Mary, and to learn from her to hope.



Mary's Love for God

- Charity consists in union with God. Striving to attain this should be our constant aim throughout our short time on earth.

I. MARY'S CONFORMITY TO THE WILL OF GOD

- Mary learned from Gabriel that she had been chosen to be the mother of Christ, and she conformed without hesitation regardless.

- Her attitude being: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done unto me according to Thy word", and that is the level of conformity that we should adopt regarding God's Will for us.



II. MARY'S SPIRIT OF PRAYER

- Prayer is the elevation of our minds to God and is the most delightful occupation of every soul that loves God.

- Words cannot express the delight our Blessed Lady took in prayer. Her upbringing in the Temple had accustomed her to divine contemplation, and hence she was habitually disposed that way. Even when going about the duties of her station, she was always silently in prayer or pondering on the deeds and sayings of her Beloved Son.

- Her life was one long and unbroken adoration of Him, but she was also accustomed to uttering aloud thanksgivings or supplications or divine praise through psalms and canticles, again habitual from her early life in the Temple.

- Mary's prayers were never the cold, rote-learned repetitions that our own may be. Her prayers were full of ardour and energy of love although of the prayers composed by herself, only *The Magnificat* has come down to us across time.



III. MARY'S ZEAL FOR GOD'S GLORY

- The weapons of Mary's zeal were faith, prayer, the love of Jesus and her interior virtues, as portrayed by her visit to her cousin Elizabeth, and by her conduct at the marriage-feast in Cana, which together best show forth her zeal.

- The first example enables Jesus, whilst still in the womb, to sanctify his precursor, John the Baptist, also still in the womb.

- The second example marks where Mary's zeal caused her to prevail upon Jesus and to bring forward the commencement of his public ministry by the miracle of the water being turned into wine.

- How often are we in need of the wine of truth, the wine of grace, the wine of spiritual joy, all of which Mary obtains for us from Jesus by her loving prayer.