

Mary's Love for the Sacred Humanity of Jesus

- Nobody loved Jesus so strongly, so tenderly, so sublimely as did Mary.
- She was His mother. She loved Him from the moment of His conception through to here and now where she is seated by His side in Heaven, exulting in His unending happiness.
- Between His Ascension into Heaven, and her own Assumption later, her love for Him was sustained by receiving daily the Bread of Life, and by her memories of His physical presence on earth, and by the unquenchable hope that she would one day join Him in Heaven.



Mary's Love for the Church

- The Church is Christ's "work", that mystical Body of which He is the head, the soul and the life. The Church is the bride of Christ.
- From the birth of the Church with its first family in the stable, through its baptism in blood on Calvary to its baptism in the Holy Ghost at Pentecost, and on through its infancy following the time of Christ's Ascension into Heaven, it was Mary's special task to tend and nourish it.
- Such was Mary's solace and instruction that the Church's faith increased to bring forth the martyrs of Jerusalem and Rome. So very much does the Church owe to Mary for her love for it.



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The Virtues of the Blessed Virgin Mary (part II)



Mary's Virtues in relation to men

I. MARY'S LOVE FOR HER SUPERIORS

- Mary obeyed the ministers of the sanctuary and the matrons who had charge of her during her childhood time of service at the Temple. She naturally obeyed her spouse Joseph, who accepted this obedience in all humility. She obeyed the Emperor's edict to register at Bethlehem despite her advanced pregnancy, as also the precepts of the Jewish religion concerning her purification.

- Her love for her superiors manifested itself as humiliiy with no indication from her that she was superior to all of those to whom she paid obeisance.



II. MARY'S LOVE FOR HER INFERIORS

- Mary was the humblest of God's creatures. She deferred to her parents, to the apostles and to St. John, her guardian. Only her Son, Jesus, came under her authority, and love was the secret of her rule.

- Now, Mary is the Queen of All Heaven, and as such she loves every being, from seraphim down to the lowest and most sinful human being. She merits in return the love of every being in Heaven and on earth.

Mary's Love for Mankind

Mary is the mother of men. Jesus was born the Son of the Virgin Mary, and men are the children of Mary by adoption through the blood shed at the Cross of Calvary when Christ said to his beloved disciple John, representing mankind: "Behold thy Mother." Mary therefore loves each of us not merely as her neighbour, but as a most dear child.

III. MARY'S LOVE FOR HER EQUALS

- Amiability towards one's equals is a virtue. Mary displayed it bountifully through her empathy with others and the careful heed she paid to times, places and persons.

- Very little by way of instances is recorded in the Gospels, although one example is her compassion for the newly-weds at the marriage-feast at Cana, and the resulting provision of more wine.



IV. MARY'S LOVE OF COMPASSION

- Amongst the most attractive forms of Mary's love for mankind is mercy or compassion. Let us not forget that sin is the fever that kills the soul and is a far greater danger to us than bodily afflictions.

- Mary has the power, through her Divine Son, to obtain miraculous cures and easements, which is why we say to her so often: "Pray for us now and at the hour of our death."



V. MARY'S LOVE FOR ALL MEN

- Had Mary conferred no other benefits on men than the examples revealed in these paragraphs, she would have deserved the eternal gratitude and admiration of the human race.

- Think of the innumerable maidens who have pledged themselves to a life of virginity, and of those amongst them who have died in its defence. Think of the heroism she has inspired in the martyrs down the ages many of whom are now saints.

- As St. Ambrose wrote of Mary: "Let the life of the Virgin Mary be ever present to your mind as a mirror of chastity and of every virtue, that you may copy her example and learn from her what to think, what to do and what to avoid."