

Marian Prayer

Based on Chapter 12, “Mary: The Church’s First and Most Perfect Member” (United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, pages 141-149)



I. Lesson of Faith (taken from pages 141-143)

The Prayer Leader either reads the excerpt entitled “St. Juan Diego sees Mary” or invites those assembled to read silently.

The Prayer Leader invites those gathered to a short period of shared reflection on the following question:

Having read “St. Juan Diego Sees Mary”, how do you think the miracle of the tilma fosters a greater faith in Christ?

II. From the Catechism (taken from page 145)

The Prayer Leader reads the following summary as a response of praise and gratitude.

The Virgin Mary “freely cooperated in the work of man’s salvation through faith and obedience.” She uttered her yes “in the name of all human nature.” By her obedience she became the new Eve, the mother of all the living.

III. Meditation – Luke 1:26-38 (Reader)

After proclaiming the Gospel, the Reader allows for a short period of reflective silence. The Reader then reads the “Response.”

IV. Response (based on doctrinal statements on pages 147-148)

Reader: The response is: Pray for us.

“Through the centuries the Church became ever more aware that Mary, ‘full of grace’ through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception.”

Mary, conceived without original sin, (response).

(The Doctrine of the Immaculate Conception: C.C.C., no. 491)

“Mary was always a virgin, in conceiving Jesus, in giving birth to him, and for the rest of her life.”

Mary, ever virgin, (response).

(The Doctrine of the Perpetual Virginitly of Mary: U.S.C.C.A. page 148)

“The Most Blessed Virgin Mary, when the course of her earthly life was completed, was taken up body and soul into the glory of heaven, where she already shares in the glory of her Son's Resurrection, anticipating the resurrection of all members of his Body.”

Mary, assumed into heaven, (response)

(The Doctrine of the Assumption of Mary: CCC 974)

V. “For Discussion” (taken from page 147)

The Prayer Leader introduces the following questions to groups of two or three for three to five minute discussion.

Mary said “yes” to God at the Annunciation and echoed her “fiat”, her “yes” each day of her life. As one called to hand on the faith to our Catholic children, how do we witness our daily “fiat” to them?

After the period of sharing, the Prayer Leader invites all to pray the Memorare.

VI. Closing Prayer – The Memorare of St. Bernard of Clairvaux

Introduced by the Prayer Leader:

Let us together ask the most Holy Mother of God to intercede for us:

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known
that anyone who fled to your protection,
implored your help or sought your intercession,
was left unaided.

Inspired with this confidence,
I fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother;
to you do I come,
before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
despise not my petitions,
but in your mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

