COURSE OUTLINE

Marian Devotion

Principal Guide: Faith + Doctrine = True Devotion of Mary

DISCUSSION QUESTION

What Marian picture, statue, card, or activity did you bring to share with the class?

What significance does it have for you?

MAGNIFICAT: (THE CANTICLE OF MARY – Luke 1:46-55)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever. Amen.

LECTURE 1: MARIAN PRAYER – THE MAGNIFICAT

A. Mary's Song of Praise

a. Latin for "magnifies" – a prayer of adoration of the Lord
b. Used in the Liturgy of the Hours – the prayer of the Church – prayed daily at Vespers (i.e., Evening Prayer)
c. Connected to Marian Feasts

B. Scriptural Roots

a. New Testament: Mary's joyful response to her cousin Elizabeth's greeting.
b. Old Testament phrases take on new meanings; psalm structure related to the Song of Hannah (1 Samuel 2:1-10)
c. Composed of 4 strophes
    i. First Strophe – Mary's self-understanding of her relationship to and with God
        1. He is LORD, Savior, Mighty One (focuses on his greatness) – Yahweh: merciful and gracious. God is different and created in his image and likeness we are called to be different!

2. Humility – He is her Savior. He is merciful and mighty (salvation/liberation) – she names herself as servant of the Lord.

ii. Strophes 2 & 3 – What God has done for his people / connects to the Beatitudes / turns things upside down – He's different!

iii. Strophe 4 – History & Tradition of her people all connected to the promise to Abraham and his descendants.

C. Further Thoughts

a. *"It is remarkable how Mary begins her Magnificat with her personal experiences and soon passes on to identify herself with the whole human race. She looks ahead and sees what the effect of the birth of her Son will be to the world, how it will improve the whole condition of human life, how it will free the oppressed, feed the hungry, and assist the helpless. And when she said these words, her Son was not yet born—although one would think, from the joy of her song, that He was already in her arms. She is singing her song of pure faith about something certain to happen because God will make it come true..."* **~ Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen ("The Song of a Woman" from The World's First Love – Mary, Mother of God)**

b. ***Marian Websites –***

i. ***U Dayton (https://udayton.edu/marianlibrary/all-about-mary-update.php***

ii. ***Marie de Nazareth https://www.mariedenazareth.com/en/***

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

How has the Lord been merciful and gracious in your life?

What great things has he done for you and how does that make you feel?

LECTURE 2: MARIAN PRAYER – THE ROSARY

A. Brief History

a. Beads

i. Counting beads has always been used by ancient peoples for prayer (not specifically Christian)

ii. Provides a concrete and tangible way to count and focus on prayer

b. Linked to the 150 psalms of the Old Testament (1 Our Father, for each Psalm)

c. Firmly Rooted in Scripture and built on the Gospels

i. Our Father

1. The prayer given to us by Jesus himself during the Sermon on the Mount

ii. Hail Mary

1. First part taken from Luke (1:28 – Gabriel's greeting & 1:42 – Elizabeth's greeting)

2. Second part is an intercessory prayer from Church tradition added around the 16th C.

iii. Mysteries of the Rosary

1. All focus on the life of Christ Jesus from the Gospels (exception: Assumption & Crowning of Mary in the Glorious Mysteries)

B. St. John Paul II
   a. *Rosarium Virginis Mariae (On the Most Holy Rosary)* – Apostolic Letter, October 2002
   b. Introduction to the Rosary
      i. Christocentric prayer which is Marian in character
      ii. The Christian people sit at the school of Mary
      iii. Path of Contemplation – contemplates the beauty of the face of Christ
      iv. An experience of the depths of Christ's love
   c. Four-fold Understanding of the Rosary (JPII)
      i. We remember Christ with Mary
      ii. We learn Christ from Mary
      iii. We pray to Christ with Mary
      iv. We proclaim Christ with Mary
   d. Hail Mary and the Mysteries are a compendium of Sacred Scripture
   e. Luminous Mysteries (focusing on the public life of Christ) – introduced by JPII
      i. The Baptism of the Lord
      ii. The Wedding at Cana
      iii. The Proclamation of the Kingdom
      iv. The Transfiguration
      v. The Institution of the Eucharist
   f. Provides genuine training in holiness!
      i. Sunday & Wednesday – Glorious Mysteries
      ii. Monday & Saturday – Joyful Mysteries
      iii. Tuesday & Friday – Sorrowful Mysteries
      iv. Thursday – Luminous Mysteries
   g. It's a prayer for peace & a prayer for the family

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How is the Rosary an experience of the depths of Christ's love? Is that your experience of the Rosary? If not, what steps could you take to change your experience?

How might you incorporate the Rosary in your role as a catechist to help students experience the depths of Christ's love?

LECTURE 3: OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE (DEC 12)

A. **Theological Considerations**
   a. "As her image was imprinted on Juan Diego's tilma, so Mary becomes imprinted in the deepest recesses of the hearts of all who come to her. Under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mary is the patroness of the Americas."
   b. St. John Paul II: Shaped his pontificate
      i. Mary, Mother of the Americas
      ii. Star of the New Evangelization (Gospel)
      iii. Mother of a new civilization of love

B. The Story (16th century)
   a. Spaniards destroy sense of identity/culture/heritage
   b. Impose Christianity/sense of collective depression
   c. 1531 – Mary appears to Juan Diego as Mother of the True God

C. The Tilma – great symbolism (dressed and looks like an indigenous pregnant woman; in front of sun (God); colors, flowers, stars/constellation, black band. [Angels and moon may have been added later.]

DISCUSSION QUESTION

How does this image and message of Mary from the 16th Century shape your desire to "make room" for Christ in your daily life, as Mary did?

Mary's appearance at Guadalupe reflects the culture of the people so that she can lead them to an encounter with Christ. How might you, in your role as a catechist, use the culture of your students to help them encounter Christ?

LECTURE 4: OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE (CONTINUED)

D. The Meaning and the Message
   a. "Know, know for sure, my dearest, littlest, and youngest son, that I am the perfect and ever Virgin Holy Mary, Mother of the God of truth through Whom everything lives, the Lord of all things near us, the Lord of heaven and earth. I want very much to have a little house built here for me, in which I will show Him, I will exalt Him and make Him manifest. I will give Him to the people in all my personal love, in my compassion, in my help, in my protection: because I am truly your merciful Mother, yours and **all the people** who live united in this land and of all the other people of different ancestries, my lovers, who love me, those who seek me, those who trust in me. Here I will hear their weeping, their complaints and heal all their sorrows, hardships and sufferings."
   b. Three parts of her message
      i. Mary asks (sanctuary: not just for veneration but for social function)
      ii. Mary promises: four maternal overtures
         1. To be a mother (love and compassion)
         2. To show herself as a merciful mother
         3. To hear weeping
         4. To heal sorrows/remedy their suffering
      iii. Mary affirms that she is the Mother of the true God/all peoples
   c. Instructs Juan Diego to show her to all local inhabitants and peoples of the world & to make her conditions known (to love her, to pray and seek her)
   d. Mary replaces the "goddesses" of the former way through invitation to the way of her Son
   e. Mary links love and life to the true God

REMINDERS

- The course Facilitator will notify the Office for Catechetical Formation of your course completion.
- The Office for Catechetical Formation will update your certification record within two weeks and email you a copy of your catechetical record. If you have completed your Master Certification, a certificate will also be sent via email. If you do not receive your record ***after*** two weeks, contact the Office of Catechetical Formation via email: phillyocf@archphila.org.

- It is ***your*** responsibility to forward a copy of your certification record to your Principal and/or Director of Religious Education.
- Your feedback is important to us as we strive to improve our courses. Please take five minutes to complete the course survey using the QR code provided.

CLOSING PRAYER

Consecration of a Family to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Oh Mother Most Pure,
we come to You as a family
and consecrate ourselves to your most Immaculate Heart.
We come to You as a family
and place our trust in Your powerful intercession.

Oh Dearest Mother Mary,
teach us as a mother teaches her children,
for our souls are soiled
and our prayers are weak
because of our sinful hearts.
Here we are Dearest Mother,
ready to respond to You
and follow Your way,
for Your way leads us
to the heart of Your Son, Jesus.
We are ready to be cleansed and purified.

Come then Virgin Most Pure,
and embrace us with Your motherly mantle.
Make our hearts whiter than snow
and as pure as a spring of fresh water.
Teach us to pray,
so that our prayers may become more beautiful
than the singing of the birds at the break of dawn.

Dear Mother Mary,
we entrust to Your Immaculate Heart of hearts,
our family and our entire future.
Lead us all to our homeland which is Heaven.
Amen.
Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.

