



Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem ©
* Knights of Malta *

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Chancellor's Update

Reply to Fellow Christians

This is a reply to Christians of good will who were never taught Catholic Dogma and Doctrine and had some objections to our August 2010 Chancellor's Update.

We understand where you are coming from - Scripture Only.

First, we must agree on history and definitions of terms.

A dogma is a revealed truth found in scripture and tradition and taught by the Apostles.

A doctrine is a teaching elaborating on the dogma or a derivation, which is the consequence of the dogma.

In Genesis 3:15 "I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed: she shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in wait for her heel."

In John 2:1-11 in verse 4 Jesus says to his Mother, "What wouldst thou have me to do, woman? My hour has not yet come." Notice the answer in verse 5. "His mother said to the attendants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'"

In John 19: 26-27, "When Jesus, therefore, saw his mother and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, He said to his mother, 'Woman, behold thy son.' In verse 27 He says to his disciple, 'Behold thy mother.'"

In the Apocalypse (Book of Revelation) 12: 1 "A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon was under feet and upon her head a crown of twelve stars."

In Luke 1: 41-50 starting in verse 42 "**Blessed** art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb!" In verse 46-50 and Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior because he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaid; for, behold, henceforth all generations shall call me **blessed**; because he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name; and his mercy is from generation to generation on those who fear him."

But before we draw some conclusions, let us look at Mary in relationship to God.

First, God is a Supreme Being, all-knowing and all-powerful. By His revelation there are three Divine Persons in this One God, God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit.

N.B. Three Divine Persons - No Human Person.

Who is God the Father? – First Person of the Blessed Trinity.

Who is God the Son (Jesus)? – Second Person of the Blessed Trinity.

Who is God the Holy Spirit? – Third Person of the Blessed Trinity.

What is Jesus? – A God - Man – A Divine Person – Not a Human Person – With Two Natures – A Divine Nature and a Human Nature.

Therefore, Mary is the daughter of God the Father, Mother of God the Son and the spouse of God the Holy Spirit. You must admit that is a very unusual relationship!!!

If you could *MAKE* your mother, you would make her PERFECT. God could and God did.

Now, we can draw some conclusions from the quotes in Scripture. Yes, you are correct and right that Jesus is mediator, because of Genesis 3:15. But obviously, God had a plan for redemption.

Jesus would crush the head of Satan as Scripture says through a woman. It is not humiliating for

God to defeat a creature, even a pure spirit like Satan, but to be defeated by a woman is something else, particularly since man fell through a woman, all the more fitting to defeat Satan through a woman. Where Eve said no to God's directive in the Garden, Mary tells everyone to do whatever He tells you. Where Eve is disobedient to God, and brings sin and death into the world, Mary humbly says **yes** to the angel and the word becomes flesh and dwells amongst us. By Mary's fiat to the angel, God's plan of redemption begins and the gates of heaven will become reopened and death will be defeated and eternal life granted. Hence, "For in thee also we have been given a pledge of eternal life" (Chancellor's Update August 2010).

At the cross Jesus addresses His Mother as **WOMAN, SO EVERYONE CAN REALIZE HIS FATHER'S PLAN** and that the Old Covenant or Testament with Israel is now being directed or changed to the New and Eternal Testament –the Church. All Christians are spiritual Jews. On a deathbed, a man may make his last will and testament or change it. So Jesus (remember I and the Father are one) changes the Will that the Father made with Abraham because the Jews (Israelites) refuse to accept him as the Messiah.

Some people like to say "woman" stands for Israel, but a look at the Scriptures shows that "woman" is referring to a single person not a collective noun.

Now, your admonition to 1 Cor: 2: 14 is excellent when you read 1 Cor: 2: 16: "who has known the mind of the Lord, that he might instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ."

We know you are not trying to instruct the Lord but we believe you do not understand that those who lived very close to the time of Christ might know more of the meaning of the Scriptures, being closer to the Apostles and early Fathers of the Church in language, culture and customs, who all taught what we just wrote above.

Now for history, remember the people quoted in the August Update lived seven to eight centuries before Luther and the Protestant protest or revolt.

Therefore, this teaching is not from the Church of the West, with whom Luther and others were protesting, but was the common knowledge and teaching of the Church, East and West. Even today, the Orthodox Eastern Christians NOT in communion with Rome still teach this. As I said this was common knowledge of the early Church. And to our knowledge we do not know that the Protestants threw out the early Fathers of the Church like Augustine.

In conclusion: Mary is unique by GRACE. She was chosen by God and she accepted. Because she accepted, God has done great things for her and henceforth "all nations shall call me **blessed**." God's plan not ours. If He wishes to choose a woman, who are we to give Him counsel?

He chose to make her perfect, by means of the Immaculate Conception, because she was to be his tabernacle for his first nine months on earth and He could not, and would not, be subject to an imperfect sinful body.

Because He was not a Human Person but a Divine Person, as she conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit (also not a Human Person but a Divine Person), her virginity would remain intact. As Christ transfigured Himself on Mount Tabor, and passed through the walls and/or doors in the upper room, he passed through the womb of Mary leaving her virginity intact, another proof of His Divinity. In Exodus 3: 2-4, "he (Moses) saw that the bush was on fire and was not burnt." This quote prefigures Mary's virginity remaining intact even though she was pregnant and gave birth. This is the reason the Church teaches Mary's perpetual virginity.

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