

Mary - First Disciple

NATIONAL E-CONFERENCE

Local Facilitated Discussion Questions

Session 1: The tradition begins: Paul, Mark and Matthew.

1. Are you surprised that so little is said about Mary in the 50's and 60's of the first Christian century?
2. Do you sense, however, that Mary, as a woman and the mother of Jesus is firmly in place?
3. How do you feel about Mary being listed with all the sinners in Matthew 1:1-17?

Session 2: Mary as presented in the Icons

1. There are four types of Marian iconography. What characterises each one?
2. Which of the Marian icons speaks most to you? Why?
3. What Marian theology emerges from the icons?

Session 3: The first of all disciples, at the heart of Jesus' new family: Luke-Acts.

1. Does the different presentation of Mary in Matt 1-2 and Luke 1-2 surprise you?
2. Can you find yourself in Mary's journey of faith in the story of the Annunciation in Luke 1:26-38?
3. Can you find yourself in her "treasuring in her heart"?

Sessions 4 & 5: Do whatever He tells you - My Mary Moment

1. What insights did you gain from the Gospel reflection?
2. Discuss your response to the faith reflections in My Mary Moment?

Session 6: The Woman and the Mother in the Gospel of John. The Help of all Christians?

1. Why do you think John never calls Mary by her name?
2. Notice that the terms "woman and mother" that began in Paul and Mark return at the end of the New Testament witness. What is this saying?
3. How does the scene at the Cross in John's Gospel (John 19:25-27) present the Mother of Jesus as the Mother of all disciples?
4. What does this journey from Paul's presentation of Mary as mother to John's presentation of the mother at the foot of the Cross say to us as Christians?

Sub Tuum

Sub tuum praesidium confugimus, Sancta Dei Genetrix. Nostras deprecationes ne despicias in necessitatibus (nostris), sed a periculis cunctis libera nos semper, Virgo gloriosa et benedicta. Amen.

We fly to your protection (patronage), O Holy Mother of God; despise not our prayers in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

Gentle Woman

Introduction

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women
and blest is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now
and at the hour of death. Amen.

Refrain

Gentle woman, quiet light,
morning star, so strong and bright,
gentle Mother, peaceful dove,
teach us wisdom; teach us love.

1. You were chosen by the Father;
you were chosen for the Son.
You were chosen from all women
and for woman, shining one.
2. Blessed are you among women,
blest in turn all women, too.
Blessed they with peaceful spirits.
Blessed they with gentle hearts.