



What Makes Us Catholic?

Why Do We Pray to Mary?

Do we as Catholics believe that we are worshipping Mary when we ask for her intercession to our prayers? Do we believe that we are placing her above her Divine Son when we pray to her?

Of course not! Catholics believe that worship is due to God alone. Catholics do, however, venerate Mary. In other words, we honor our Blessed Mother with great reverence and devotion because she is the Mother of God. Mary is the model of perfect love and obedience to Christ. God preserved Mary from sin, and she conceived our Lord by the power of the Holy Spirit, bringing Christ into our world. Catholics can't help but honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, who is full of grace, for her "yes" to God made the Incarnation possible. And without the Incarnation, we would not have salvation. Mary is the most beautiful model of total submission to the will of God. Catholics do not view Mary as equal to Christ, but rather venerate Mary because of her relationship to God. The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains, "Mary's role in the Church is inseparable from her union with Christ and flows directly from it." (CCC 964)

As Catholics, we pray that we can respond to God's call to holiness for our lives in the way Mary did. St. Teresa of Calcutta prayed to emulate Mary's devotion to Christ:

"Mary, Mother of Christ, give me your heart so beautiful, so pure, so immaculate, so full of love and humility that I may be able to receive Jesus in the Bread of Life, love Him as You loved Him, and serve Him as You served Him."

Want to read more about this topic?

Sources:

- www.catholicscomehome.org
- Catechism of the Catholic Church 964-970

Do you have questions on this topic, or other topics you would like to learn more about? Please complete the back side of this sheet and leave it in the box on the "What Makes Us Catholic?" stand.

Please note your question on this topic, or other topics you would like to learn more about below and leave it in the box on the "What Makes Us Catholic?" stand.

NAME _____ Phone # and/or Email _____