



# Archdiocesan Program

## WHY CATHOLIC?

STRENGTHENING FAITH ... MAKING DISCIPLES



## THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

**MARY – MOTHER OF CHRIST, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH**

### Biblical Reflection Jn 1:46-55

“God sent forth his Son,” but to prepare a body for him, he wanted the free cooperation of a creature. For this, from all eternity God chose for the mother of his Son a daughter of Israel, a young Jewish woman of Nazareth in Galilee, “a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary” (Lk 1,26-27). (CCC 488)



Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, “full of grace” through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses... (CCC 491)

Called in the Gospels “the mother of Jesus,” Mary is acclaimed... at the prompting of the Spirit and even before the birth of her son, as “the mother of my Lord.” In fact, the One whom she conceived as man by the Holy Spirit, who truly became her Son according to the flesh, was none other than the Father’s eternal Son, the second person of the Holy Trinity. Hence the Church confesses that Mary is truly “Mother of God”. (CCC 495)

Jesus is Mary’s only son, but her spiritual motherhood extends to all men whom indeed he came to save: “The Son whom she brought forth is he whom God placed as the first-born among many brethren, that is, the faithful in whose generation and formulation she cooperates with a mother’s love”. (CCC 501)

Mary is truly “Mother of God” since she is the mother of the eternal Son of God made man, who is God himself. (CCC 509)

The Virgin Mary “cooperated through free faith and obedience in human salvation” ... By her obedience she became the new Eve, mother of the living. (CCC 511)

“... She is clearly the mother of the members of Christ... since she has by her charity joined in bringing about the birth of believers in the Church, who are members of its head”. St. Augustine, *De virg.* 6. (LG 53). “Mary, Mother of Christ, Mother of the Church”. Paul VI, Discourse, November 21, 1964. (CCC 963)

### Questions for discussion:

- Do you find in Mary’s “Yes” an example to follow in your response to God?
- Mary is the first and most faithful disciple of Jesus. What can you learn from her to help you to be a disciple and follower of the Lord?
- How many titles do you remember by which Mary is known throughout the Church? Mention some.
- From the cross Jesus told John, “Behold, your mother”. Do you recognize Mary as your own mother? What does this imply to you in your daily life?
- What does Mary means to you?

**Further reading:** Catechism of the Catholic Church, numbers 484-51