



Virtues of Saint Mary

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Introduction

The Virgin Mary built here life on fundamental virtues without which it is difficult for a person:

- **to be saved,**
- **to enjoy eternal life,**
- **or to have Christ within them as the Virgin did.**

Subtopics

- **Virtue of Grace**
- **Virtue of Dialogue**
- **Virtue of Humility**
- **Virtue of Acceptant Faith**

The Virtue of Grace

- The angel greeted her: **“Hail to you, Oh full of grace” (Luke 1:28).**
- The origin of the Greek word for grace (charis) means “the work of the Holy Spirit”.
- When the Spirit of God fills an individual He fills him with grace.

What does being filled with grace mean?

- It means that there is a divine, holy, consecrating, and anointing work done in that person so that he becomes a home and temple in which the Holy Spirit lives.
- **“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and His Spirit lives in you?”** (1 Corinthians 6:19)
- Therefore, grace is the work of the Holy Spirit.
- When the Virgin was a child in the Temple, she opened her heart to the work of Holy Spirit and so it was natural for the Holy Spirit to descend on her.

A Question

- I would like to ask you, dear young people, how filled are you with the means of grace?
- When the Virgin was in the Temple, she either prayed, or read, or served the sacrifice in some way.
- These three are the means by which she was filled with grace.
- We should pray constantly (always) , read the Bible daily, with the sacrifice of the Eucharist.
- This is grace, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and the fellowship of the Lord with man.

More questions

- Do we not say of Him **“There is a friend who is closer than a brother?”**
(Proverbs 18:24)
- Christ wants to be our friend and to live within us but He only lives within us after He has filled us with grace first, for did He not dwell in the Virgin after He had filled her with grace?

Nourishment

- When you pray you receive nourishment, for prayer is exactly like the umbilical cord to the infant in his mother's womb without which he would die.
- There is also an umbilical cord between us and God.
- God sheds His divine blood and His grace within us.
- God works in us through the breath of life which is prayer, for prayer is oxygen or nourishment.

The Holy Bible

- The Bible says: **“Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God”** (Matthew 4:4).
- Therefore, he who does not read the Holy Bible goes hungry and starves.
- The Holy Bible is to the soul what bread is to the body, and as the bread satisfies the body and is vital for its life so is the Bible essential for the life of the spirit.

Prayer

- Through prayer, one is filled with the things of heaven and through the Bible one is filled with the word of God.
- **“I found Your words and ate them; Your words were sweeter than honey in my mouth”** (Jeremiah 15:16).

The Mysteries

- We are also nourished through the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments) for **“He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him”** (John 6:56).
- Prayer is bread, the Holy Bible is bread, and Holy Communion is bread
- and man is filled with these three forms of spiritual bread.

The Virtue of Dialogue

- There were no dealings between God Who is in heaven and man who is here on earth, for a vast (great) distance separates us from Him.
- However, the Virgin felt that He was her Father and started a conversation with Him.

The Angel

- When the angel came to announce that she would conceive and bear a son she could have remained silent out of fear and awe, but she began to ask: **“How can this be?”** (Luke 1:34)
- The angel’s answer tried to clarify this: **“The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Highest will overshadow you”** (Luke 1:35).
- The Virgin’s question was an inquiry in a uniquely deep conversation, not a dialogue inspired by doubt.
- There was affection between the Virgin and God and how sweet that there should be this deep affection between you and Lord Jesus.

Listening...

- We do not want to speak and have God listen only, for God also speaks and you listen.
- **“Speak Lord, for Your servant listens”** (1 Samuel 3:9).
- There is a dialogue, a conversation, between us and our Lord.

Meditation...

- Let us meditate on the story of the Samaritan woman.
- The Lord Jesus addressed her eight times and she answered.
- God does not abandon us, but He wants us to talk to Him always and to listen to Him.
- **“Come now, let us reason together says the Lord”** (Isaiah 1:18).
- We need to learn how to converse with God, for David says, *“I listen to what the Lord God says”*.

The Virtue of Humility

- When the angel announced to the Virgin that she would be the Mother of God, her reply was, **“Behold the maidservant of the Lord” (Luke 1:38)**
- a handmaiden, a slave, a servant (the word *maidservant* means *a slave daughter born to a slave mother*).
- This is unparalleled humility on the part of the Virgin, real humility.
- Imagine saying: “Yes, Lord, You bestow on me and give me Your love, but I am only a maidservant”.

A question

- Do we have this humility that transforms the mother into a nation?
- The more a person is broken before the Lord, the more he overcomes temptations.
- Brokenness before God is the way to victory.
- He raises those who humble themselves before Him: "I remove the noble from their seats and raise the lowly".
- The Virgin was gentle and humble, a very salient trait (or important characteristic) in the life of the holy Ever-Virgin Saint Mary.

The Virtue of Acceptant Faith

- This was a great and effective virtue.
- **“Let it be to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38).**
- This would bring troubles, Joseph would doubt her, but let Your will be done Lord.
- The Lord intervened and explained to Joseph.

Where did the birth take place?

- Not in a home or an inn, not even in a humble room; it was in a manger; let Your will be done Lord.
- Imagine her giving birth to the **Almighty God, the Alpha and Omega, the great I AM, the King of Kings** in a very humble manger within an animal barn!?!?!?!?!?!?!?!?
- But here arrive the wise men to visit the newborn child and to offer gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Why the pain Lord?

- It is the way to a cross; let Your will be done Lord.
- Simon comes and says: **“Behold this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against”** (Luke 2:33).
- Let your will be done Lord.
- This is the Virgin’s great treasure.
- Even when He was tortured and raised on the cross, her faithful acceptance was great.

Let Your Will Be Done

- **“Let the world rejoice to receive salvation, but my heart burns when I look upon Your Cross that You bear so patiently for the sake of all, My son and God” (Agbeyia, Book of Canonical Hours).**
- Did she ask Him “Who do You leave me to?”
- Who can forget her?
- It total acceptance (through faith) at all the stages of life.
- Let Your will be done.

According to Your Word

- Do we do the same and say **“Let it be to me according to Your word?”**
- Meditate on this statement: **“What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this”**.
- In the presence of the Virgin, we are overcome with the love, reverence and purity within her and shame at its absence (lack) within ourselves.
- We perceive the sweet radiance of Her face.
- We look upon the lovely fragrance of her life and take her faith as an example.
- The Ever-Virgin Saint Mary was full of grace, conversed with God in humble affection and gave her life to God all her days.

We exult you O [Blessed]
mother of the True Light
and glorify you O Saint
and **Theotokos**,
the Mother of God...