

Immaculata Salad

Serves 6-8

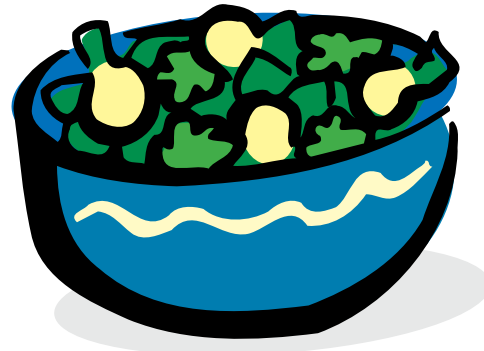
The feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, the Mother of God, is celebrated on December 8. She is often referred to by the Latin name Immaculata.

Salad

1 head Boston lettuce, separated into leaves
1 bunch arugula, stems trimmed off
2 large green apples, peeled, cored, and sliced
1/3 cup whole almonds, toasted in a preheated 350° oven until fragrant
1/2 cup crumbled Stilton or another blue cheese

Dressing

1/3 cup hazelnut oil
5 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
6 tablespoons tarragon or red wine vinegar
2 shallots, minced
2 tablespoons honey
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste



1. To assemble the salad, put the lettuce, arugula, apples, toasted almonds, and crumbled cheese in a large salad bowl and toss together lightly.
2. Combine all the dressing ingredients in a blender and whirl for a few seconds until smooth. Just before serving, pour the dressing over the salad and toss gently to coat everything. Serve immediately.

Reflections

"Salads, like soups, have always played an integral role in monastic cuisine. Monastic cooking is well known for its simplicity, wholesomeness, sobriety, and basic good taste. These are principles that mark a certain approach to cooking and are reflected in the dishes concocted in monasteries. Both salads and soups are seen as perfect prototypes for these principles and are considered quintessentially monastic sorts of food."

Brother Victor-Antoine d'Avila-Latourrette
Author of *Twelve Months of Monastery Salads*

"Out of the kitchen come the best tunes."

Irish Proverb

Recipe from *Twelve Months of Monastery Salads*, by Brother Victor Antoine d'Avila-Latourrette, Copyright , 2004 (Harvard Common Press)



Honoring Mary around the World

Table Blessing

[Printed in two panels so that sheet can be cut into smaller cards]



F O L D

Mary, you are our greatest saint,
the first disciple, and the Mother of the Church.

Pray for us now, as we prepare
to celebrate your faith, your devotion,
and your love. Intercede for us,
so that all who gather to honor you today
may learn to follow your example
of complete trust in God.

And may all of us grow in our discipleship
to your son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
Amen.



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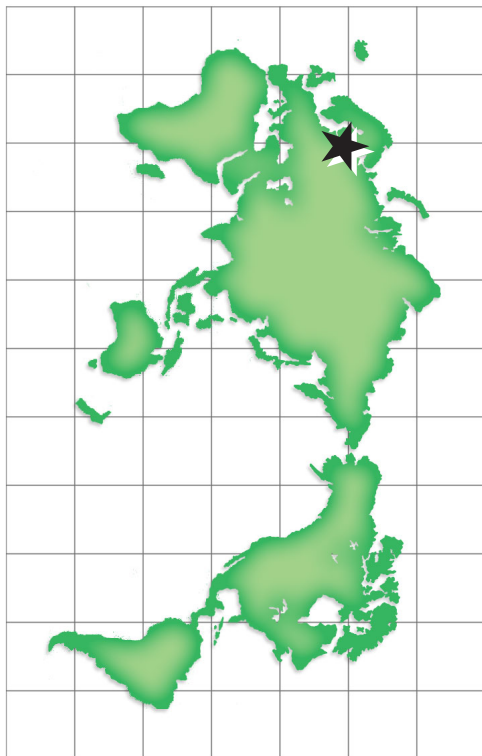
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And may all of us grow in our discipleship
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Amen.





Our Lady of Czestochowa (The Black Madonna) POLAND



Our Lady of Czestochowa (The Black Madonna) POLAND



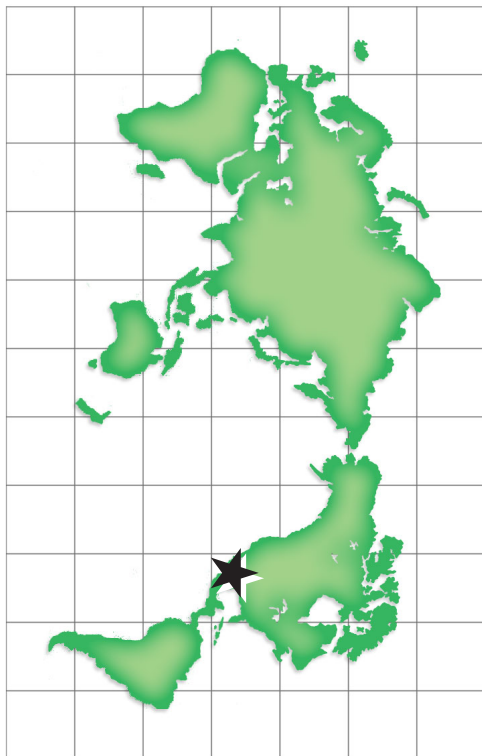
FOLD

The national shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa is one of Poland's most sacred places. More than 5 million people visit it each year. The shrine contains an icon, a special painting of Mary. It is called "The Black Madonna." The people of Poland have turned to Mary often in prayer, asking for her help and protection from invading armies. The story of the Black Madonna has inspired those throughout the world who seek freedom and justice.





Our Lady of Guadalupe MEXICO



Our Lady of Guadalupe MEXICO



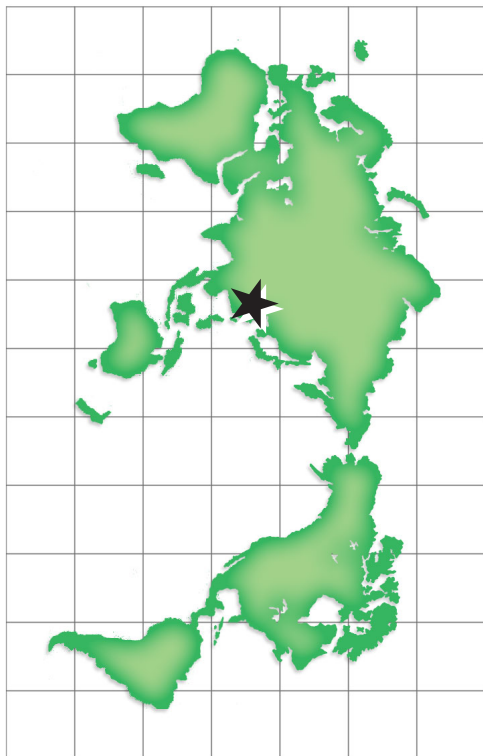
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In 1531, Mary appeared to a farmer named Juan Diego on Tepeyac Hill in Mexico. She spoke to him in his native language, asking that a church be built on the hill so that she could give her love, compassion, and help to the people. Her image appeared miraculously on his cloak and proved so powerful that the people, including Church leaders, believed that Mary had truly been there. A church was built on the hill, and the image from Juan Diego's cloak is enshrined above the altar. Every year millions of people from all over the world visit this holy place.





Our Lady of La Vang VIETNAM



Our Lady of La Vang VIETNAM



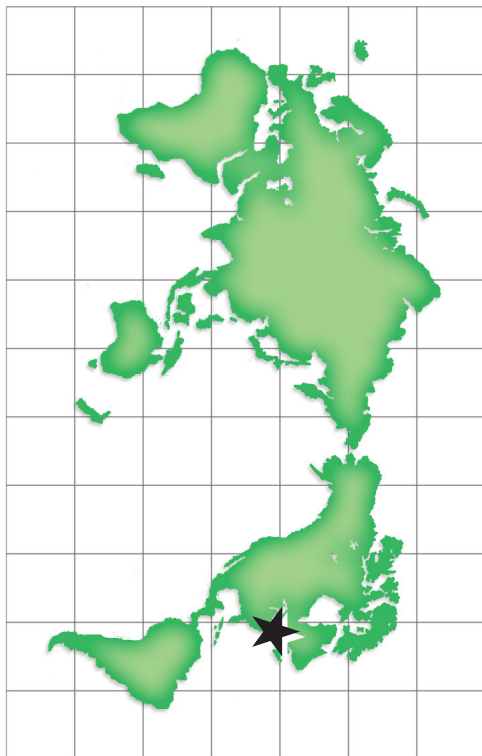
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In 1798, the king of Vietnam ordered that all Catholic churches in the country be destroyed. Many Catholics fled to a jungle in the central part of the county. They were cold, sick and hungry. One night a lady appeared to them. She was surrounded by light and held a child. The lady told the people to use the leaves of a fern growing in the jungle to treat their ailments, and she promised to pray for all who came to that spot. A shrine was later built, and pilgrims travel from all over the world to ask Our Lady of La Vang for her prayers for peace and healing.





Our Lady of the Hudson UNITED STATES



UNITED STATES Our Lady of the Hudson



FOLD

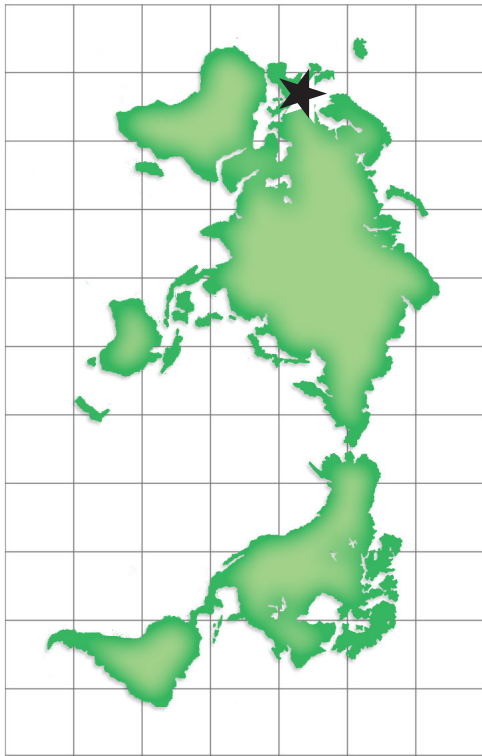
Port Ewan, New York, is located 100 miles north of New York City on the Hudson River. For many years, the town has been a center for the transporting of coal from Pennsylvania to northern towns and cities. It is here that a shrine was constructed as a site to pray for the safety of those who work and travel up and down the river. In the early 1950's the shrine was dedicated, and a six-foot statue of Our Lady of the Hudson was unveiled. As people continue to come to the area for work and recreation, they ask Mary for her prayers.





Honoring Mary around the World

Our Lady of Lourdes FRANCE



FRANCE Our Lady of Lourdes



FOLD

In 1858, while searching along a river for firewood, a young girl named Bernadette saw a beautiful lady in white who called to her. Each time Bernadette returned to the spot she would see the lady, although no one else could. One day the lady told her to dig in a dry spot of land. The next day, Bernadette saw water gushing from the place where she had been digging. A few days later, a woman was healed after dipping her paralyzed arm in the water. Millions of people have visited the church that was built at Lourdes, asking Mary to pray for the healing of their bodies, minds, hearts, and soul.





Our Lady of Africa IVORY COAST



Our Lady of Africa IVORY COAST



FOLD

In Abidjan on the Ivory Coast in Africa, there is a beautiful shrine called Our Lady of Africa, Mother of All Graces. Inside, a statue of Mary, carved out of wood, shows her standing with the child Jesus in her arms. In his visit to the shrine in 1988, Pope John Paul II described the statue's smile as one of peace, joy of spirit, and love of God. Our Lady of Africa is a symbol of the hope and love that Jesus brings us.



Honoring Mary around the World

The Story of Mary

How much do you know about Mary? Read the following story together as a group, and fill in the missing words.

In the Bible, an _____ appears to Mary and tells her she is going to be the mother of _____.

Before Jesus was born, Mary went to visit her cousin, _____. The women talked about how much God had blessed them.

Mary's husband was named _____. When Jesus was about twelve years old, he went with Mary and Joseph to _____. Jesus stayed behind, and Mary and Joseph later found him in the _____, teaching others about God.



When Jesus died on the _____, Mary must have felt _____. After Jesus rose from the dead, Mary must have felt _____.

What else do you know about Mary? _____

All over the world, people honor Mary by asking for her prayers. They visit holy places called shrines. Look at the place card on your table, and read together the story about a shrine.

Imagine you are visiting this shrine. What would you ask Mary to pray for?



A Multinational Prayer in Honor of Mary

(Stand)

SONG: “Immaculate Mary”
(*We Believe, Grade 2, CD, #25*)

Verse 1:
Immaculate Mary,
your praises we sing.
You reign now in heaven
with Jesus our King.

Refrain:
Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria!
Ave, Ave, Maria!

Verses 2 and 3:
In heaven the blessed
your glory proclaim;
on earth we your children
invoke your fair name.

We pray for our Mother,
the Church upon earth,
and bless, Holy Mary,
the land of our birth.

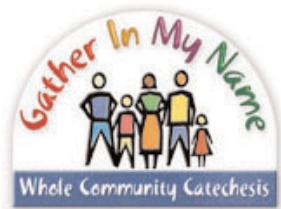
LEADER: *Let us pray.
Lord our God,
You have made the Virgin Mary
the model for all who welcome your word
and who put it into practice.
Open our hearts to receive it with joy
and by the power of your Spirit
grant that we also may become a dwelling place
in which your Word of salvation is fulfilled.*

*We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.
(Book of Mary)*

ALL: *Amen.*

(All Are Seated)

(continued)



A Multinational Prayer in Honor of Mary

Shrines of Mary Throughout the World

Table 1: Our Lady of Czestochowa (Poland)

ALL: *God of all nations,
may Our Lady of Czestochowa teach us to
respect all of those in the human family.
Remove fear from our heart so that we might
treat all people as our brothers and sisters.*

Table 2: Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexico)

ALL: *God of power and mercy,
may the prayers of Our Lady of Guadalupe
help us to honor the dignity of each person.
Plant your justice in our hearts so that
peace may reign throughout the world.*

Table 3: Our Lady of La Vang (Vietnam)

ALL: *God of love and compassion,
may the prayers of Our Lady of La Vang comfort us.
Help us to speak out against prejudice and cruelty.
Give us kind hearts and gentle tongues.*

Table 4: Our Lady of the Hudson (United States)

ALL: *God of all creation,
may we be inspired by Our Lady of the Hudson to take
care of the gifts of the earth. Deepen our ability to be
open and grateful for the beauty that surrounds us.*

Table 5: Our Lady of Lourdes (France)

ALL: *God of healing and grace,
may we be reminded by Our Lady of Lourdes
to help those in need, to comfort the sorrowful,
and to pray for all of your people.*

Table 6: Our Lady of Africa (Ivory Coast)

ALL: *God of light,
may the prayers of Our Lady of Africa bring peace
to our hearts. Fill us with joy, and show us how
to share your love with all those we meet.*

(continued)



A Multinational Prayer in Honor of Mary

A Family Prayer to Mary

MEN/BOYS: *O Mary, Mother of God, we seek your help
in making our home a household of faith.
You show us what it means to serve God
and one another.*

WOMEN/GIRLS: *Through all the moments of family life,
you lived your faith and trust in the Lord,
reaching out with love and wisdom to
your husband Joseph,
your cousin Elizabeth,
and, most especially, your son Jesus, our
Savior and our Christ,
and to your whole family, the Church.*

LEADER: *O Mary, Mother of the whole Church,
always keep us in your care and lead us to your son
as we pray . . .*

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

The Joyful Mysteries: The Annunciation

The angel Gabriel tells Mary she is to be the mother of Jesus.

Read together

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus..." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.



Luke 1:26-31; 38

Just Think

Mary did not know what to expect when she said yes to being the mother of Jesus. She did not understand how all that the angel had said would happen to her, yet her faith and love brought her to accept God's invitation.

Create a Picture

As you create your poster, think how surprised Mary must have been to be visited by an angel, and how she received the news about Jesus with joy.

Use magazine photos or symbols, or draw your own picture to honor Mary for saying yes to being the mother of Jesus.

When you finish, look at your poster. How would you like Mary to help you become a better follower of Jesus? Complete this prayer together, and write it on your poster.

Holy Mary, pray for us. Help us to follow Jesus by _____.

Now What?

- ◆ Pick someone to read your group's prayer at the closing prayer service.
- ◆ Hang up your poster.
- ◆ Take a break!

The Joyful Mysteries: The Visitation

Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth

Read together

During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

And Mary said:

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my savior."

Luke 1:39-47



Just Think

The angel Gabriel told Mary something amazing. Her cousin, Elizabeth, who had not been able to have children, was going to have a son, even in her old age. Mary and Elizabeth were both happy about becoming mothers, and they shared their joy with each other. Each woman offered prayers of praise for the ways God had blessed them.

Create a Picture

As you create your poster, think how happy Mary and Elizabeth were and how much they must have enjoyed being together. Imagine them laughing, talking, and singing together.

Use magazine photos or symbols, or draw your own picture to honor Mary for sharing her joy with others.

When you finish, look at your poster. How would you like Mary to help you become a better follower of Jesus? Complete this prayer together and write it on your poster.

Holy Mary, pray for us. Help us to follow Jesus by _____.

Now What?

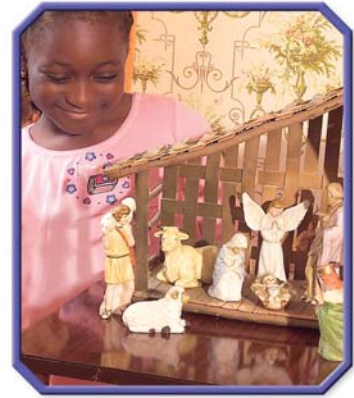
- ◆ Pick someone to read your group's prayer at the closing prayer service.
- ◆ Hang up your poster.
- ◆ Take a break!

The Joyful Mysteries: The Birth of Jesus

Read together

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled... So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2:1; 3-7



Just Think

Mary never expected Jesus to be born in a stable, but she accepted the ways God was working in her life. How happy she must have been when she cradled her baby in her arms.

Create a Picture

As you create your poster, think of the happiness that Mary and Joseph must have shared when Jesus was born. They were a family, and together, they would love and care for each other.

Use magazine photos or symbols or draw your own picture to honor Mary as the mother of Jesus.

When you finish, look at your poster. How would you like Mary to help you become a better follower of Jesus? Complete this prayer together and write it on your poster.

Holy Mary, pray for us. Help us to follow Jesus by _____.

Now What?

- ◆ Pick someone to read your group's prayer at the closing prayer service.
- ◆ Hang up your poster.
- ◆ Take a break!

The Joyful Mysteries: The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

Mary and Joseph Bring Jesus to the Temple

Read together

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord...

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:

"Now, Master, you may let your servant go
in peace, according to your word,
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in sight of all the
peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and glory for your people Israel."

Luke 2:22-23: 25-32

Just Think

Mary and Joseph followed the laws of the Jewish faith, and so they traveled to Jerusalem to present Jesus in the Temple. There they met a holy man named Simeon who recognized Jesus as the one sent by God to save his people. It filled Mary with wonder to hear Simeon speak about her son in such a way.

Create a Picture

As you create your poster, think of the way Mary always trusted in God, even when she did not fully understand what was asked of her.

Use magazine photos or symbols or draw your own picture to honor Mary for her willingness to be open to God's will.

When you finish, look at your poster. How would you like Mary to help you become a better follower of Jesus? Complete this prayer together and write it on your poster.

Holy Mary, pray for us. Help us to follow Jesus by _____.

Now What?

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- ◆ Hang up your poster.
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The Joyful Mysteries: The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

Read together

Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart.



Luke 2:41-52

Just Think

Mary and Joseph were worried when they could not find Jesus and searched for him in Jerusalem. How amazed they were to find him in the temple. There must have been many things Mary and Joseph wondered about as Jesus grew up.

Create a Picture

As you create your poster, think of the way Mary and Joseph took care of Jesus and loved him as he grew up.

Use magazine photos or symbols or draw your own picture to honor Mary for remaining patient with things she did not understand about Jesus or her life.

When you finish, look at your poster. How would you like Mary to help you become a better follower of Jesus? Complete this prayer together and write it on your poster.

Holy Mary, pray for us. Help us to follow Jesus by _____.

Now What?

- ◆ Pick someone to read your group's prayer at the closing prayer service.
- ◆ Hang up your poster.
- ◆ Take a break!



Walking in Mary's Shoes

Read this with other members of your household:

To "walk in someone else's shoes" means to follow an example that this person sets. Mary is a model for us of what a follower of Jesus should be.

Talk about these questions together:

- What do you admire about Mary?
- How can you walk in her shoes as a follower of Jesus?

Think of one way you can follow Mary's example. Write or draw it in the footprint and decorate it. Cut it out, and along with other members of your household, place it on the wall with the other footprints.





Honoring Mary around the World

Evaluation

Thank you for attending Gather in My Name.

Please take a moment to share your thoughts with members of the planning team. If participating with other members of your household, you might want to fill in your answers together.

- One thing I/we learned about Mary by attending this event is

- I/we would like to know more about _____

- A question I/we have about Mary is _____

- One way I/we will try to follow Mary's example of discipleship is by

- Something I/we would like our parish to offer in future gatherings is

- Additional comments _____

Return this form to your planning team.



Gather in My Name

My family learned about Mary.
Here we are at our parish.

I learned about Mary's love
for God.

I learned about ways to be a follower
of Jesus.



Honoring Mary around the World

The Rosary- A Garland of Prayer

Who Was Mary?



It is estimated that at the time Mary lived one in three women shared her name. In Hebrew her name is Maryam, meaning "bitter."

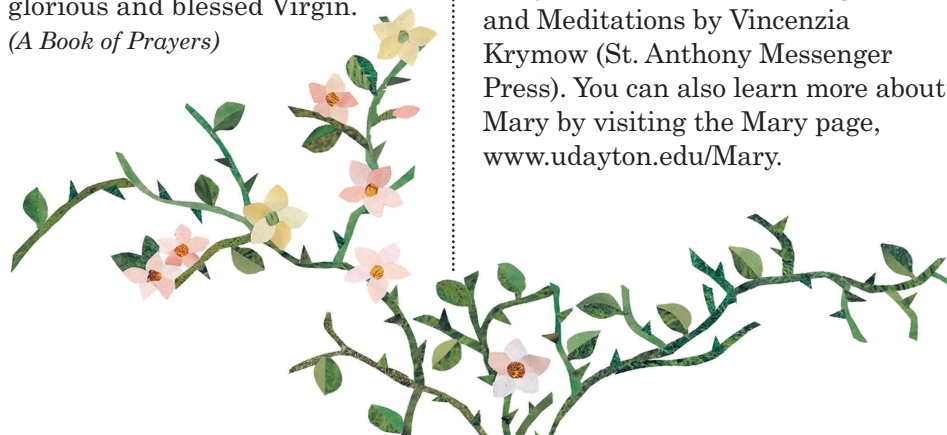
She, like many others, was probably named after Miriam, sister of Moses, who danced with delight when the people of Israel were released from generations of slavery. Christians honor Mary as the mother of Jesus. Over the centuries they have bestowed upon her numerous names and titles. According to Anthony F. Chiffolo, author of *100 Names of Mary: Stories and Prayers* (St. Anthony

Messenger Press), there may be more than six thousand such titles. These include references to apparition sites (Our Lady of Fatima) and her symbolic roles (The New Eve). Chiffolo notes that such a great number of titles reflects the ways in which people relate to her. "Some communicate with her as a very human mother; others approach her – mistakenly, the Roman Catholic Church maintains – as if she were a demi-god; still others consider her a symbol of love, faith, hope, or help." She is in all cases a woman of great strength and integrity, one who is honored for her trust in God's mercy, her devotion to Jesus, and her openness to the working of the Spirit.

The Ancient Prayer to the Virgin Mary

This prayer, first found in a Greek papyrus, c. 300, is the oldest known prayer to the Virgin.

We turn to you for protection,
holy Mother of God.
Listen to our prayers
and help us in our needs.
Save us from every danger,
glorious and blessed Virgin.
(A Book of Prayers)



Mary Gardens

Over the centuries, various legends have developed around Mary. Many of these are associated with flowers that are said to have bloomed at different points in her life. Such stories gave rise to the planting of gardens dedicated to Mary that provided ideal places to meditate and pray. To learn more, see the book, *Mary's Flowers: Gardens, Legends, and Meditations* by Vincenzia Krymow (St. Anthony Messenger Press). You can also learn more about Mary by visiting the Mary page, www.udayton.edu/Mary.

One way we honor Mary is by praying the rosary. This is usually done using a set of beads with a crucifix attached. We pray the rosary by praying the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory to the Father over and over again. This creates a peaceful rhythm of prayer during which we can reflect on the special times in the lives of Mary and Jesus. These form the "mysteries" of the Rosary, four sets of meditations that include:

Joyful Mysteries

- The Annunciation
- The Visitation
- The Birth of Jesus
- The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
- The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple

Sorrowful Mysteries

- The Agony in the Garden
- The Scourging at the Pillar
- The Crowning with Thorns
- The Carrying of the Cross
- The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus

Glorious Mysteries

- The Resurrection
- The Ascension
- The Descent of the Holy Spirit
- The Assumption of Mary into Heaven
- The Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven

The Mysteries of Light

- Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan
- The Miracle at the Wedding at Cana
- Jesus Announces the Kingdom of God
- The Transfiguration
- The Institution of the Eucharist



The Seven Stages of Mary's Discipleship

Based on the Marian Scripture scenes, Mary's vocation as mother-disciple evolves according to the following stages:

- 1) **Discernment:** At the Annunciation Mary listens to the angel, and compares his message to her own situation, debates whether to say yes, and ponders the pros and cons.
- 2) **Commitment:** Declaring her willingness to be mother of God she also declares herself to be willing to act as God's and the Spirit's disciple (I am the servant). She commits herself to a type of existence largely unknown, and she does it wholeheartedly.
- 3) **Acceptance:** Much of what we know about Mary's life could be qualified as adaptation to the unknown and unpleasant (circumstances of conception, birth, flight into Egypt). One of the learning abilities most appreciated in a disciple is his/her flexibility, sense of adaptation, acceptance of the unknown, and ability to deal with it. Mary is learning as the loving, faithful and trusting servant.
- 4) **Pondering:** Mary faces situations of utter incomprehensibility, personal doubt (not of her commitment but its practical expression), and what the history of spirituality calls the darkness or night of faith. In all of these situations (see above) she works toward a deeper understanding of things happening to her, puts them in perspective with her vocation as mother of Jesus Christ, allows for growth in patience and perseverance.
- 5) **Participation:** The true disciple engages in his master's projects and hopes. As disciple Mary associates her concerns -- and that of others -- with those of her Son. She shows initiative, courage, concern for other... and respect for Christ's own mission. The wedding of Cana is such an example of participation in her Son's mission. Again, this example shows that Mary attunes her desire to help to Christ's own mission. She learns to respect his "hour."
- 6) **Transformation:** Radical discipleship can lead to personal transformation. Such is the case for Mary as she stands at the foot of the cross. She suffers with her Son because she is unable to avert his passion and death. She understands that the monstrosity of his death cannot be changed if salvation is to become reality. But Mary's most important transformation occurs when Jesus asks her (John 19, 25-17) to take care of his brothers and sisters in the Spirit. At the foot of the cross she becomes our spiritual mother. She has to accept a new way of being mother. In losing her son, her call takes on a new significance and leads her into a radically new understanding of her role as Mother.
- 7) **Communion:** There is a social dimension to discipleship. Disciples of a same master learn from each other and develop existential bonds. Although the premier disciple of Christ, Mary is part of the community of disciples (see Pentecost event). Together with Christ's other disciples, she follows the inspiration of the Spirit sending them to the ends of the earth to disseminate Christ's message.

The University of Dayton, Mary Page – "<http://www.udayton.edu/Mary/>"

