

REFLECTIONS

***ABOUT MARY** — Her greatness: she is great because she is fore chosen; she is great because she believes; she is great because she is available to whatever the Lord asks of her, without any conditions. The three names with which she is identified: Mary, meaning "loved by God," is her first step towards that which God wills to do with her; "overflowing with heavenly favors" (we usually say "full of grace") expresses how much the Lord was working in her; and as the "handmaid of the Lord," is the first just response of a human creature before a divine request. The Trinity that reveals itself and works in her this supreme marvel, the incarnation of the Word, acquires a unique and unrepeatable relationship with her, beyond that of every other relationship with created beings.

ABOUT US — These marvels of God did not take place for the purpose of honoring Mary, but for our salvation. We see at once the love of the Most High Trinity for each one of us: Jesus became flesh for us, to save us. In all of this the role of Mary in the divine plan which is being fulfilled, her collaboration with God, and the gratitude which we all owe her is evident.

**(excerpted from the book: The Gospel of Mary)*

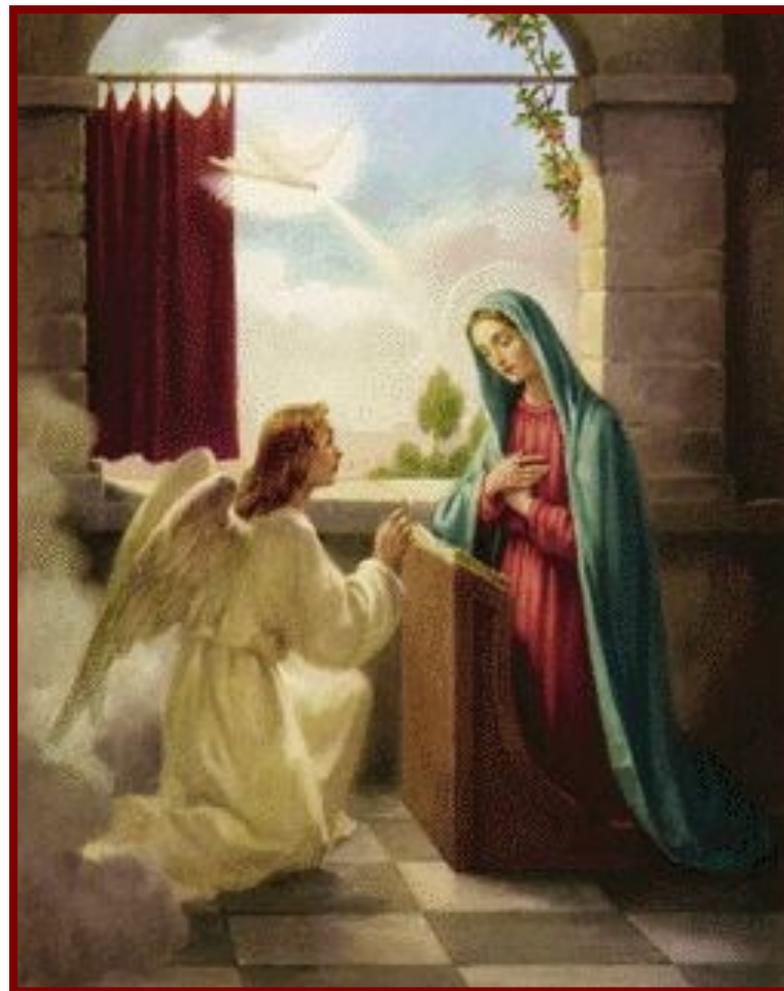
QUOTE: "Enriched from the first instant of her conception with the splendor of an entirely unique holiness, the virgin of Nazareth is hailed by the heralding angel, by divine command, as 'full of grace' (cf. Luke 1:28). To the heavenly messenger she replies: 'Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to thy word' (Luke 1:38). Thus the daughter of Adam, Mary, consenting to the word of God, became the Mother of Jesus. Committing herself wholeheartedly and impeded by no sin to God's saving will, she devoted herself totally, as a handmaid of the Lord, to the person and work of her Son, under and with him, serving the mystery of redemption, by the grace of Almighty God" (*Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, 56).



The greatest work of the Holy Spirit

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NOVENA FOR THE ANNUNCIATION



..." Behold the handmaid of the Lord;

Be it done to me according to thy word..."

THE ANNUNCIATION NINE DAY NOVENA

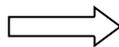
I greet you,
ever-blessed virgin,
Mother of God, Throne of Grace,
Miracle of Almighty Power!

I greet you,
Sanctuary of the Most Holy Trinity
and Queen of the Universe,
Mother of Mercy and refuge of sinners!

Most loving Mother,
attracted by your beauty and sweetness,
and by your tender compassion,
I confidently turn to you,
Miserable as I am, and beg of you to
obtain for me from your dear Son
the favor I request in this novena:

(mention your request here).

Obtain for me also,
Queen of heaven,
the most lively contrition for my many sins
and the grace to imitate closely those
Virtues which you practiced so
faithfully, especially
humility, purity and obedience.



Above all,
I beg you to be my Mother and
Protectress,
to receive me into the number of your
devoted children, and to
guide me from your high throne of glory.

Do not reject my petitions,
Mother of Mercy!
have pity on me,
and do not abandon me during life or
at the moment of my death.
Amen.

3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Mary's and 3 Glory Be

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SHORTER Nine Day NOVENA PRAYER

O most holy Virgin Mary,
to whom God sent the Angel Gabriel
to announce that you should be
the mother of His Only-Begotten Son,
pray for us who have recourse to you.

Holy, lovely Mary
we give our all to you what is past, present,
and the future, too.
Blessed be the holy and Immaculate Conception
of the most blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God.
Amen.

3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Mary's and 3 Glory Be

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