



Marian Doctrine and Devotion

Chapter 26



Marian devotions are those prayers and acts undertaken to honor Mary and with the intent of seeking her intercession with her Son, Jesus, and his Father. Devotion to the Virgin Mary does not, however, amount to worship - which is reserved for God alone. Catholics view Mary as subordinate to Christ, but uniquely so, in that she is seen as above all other creatures. In 787 the Second Council of Nicaea affirmed a three-level hierarchy of *latria*, *hyperdulia* and *dulia* that applies to God, the Virgin Mary and then to the other saints.

The Roman Catholic Church holds many teachings associated with the Blessed Virgin Mary. Four of these specific doctrines have been raised to the level of dogma, meaning in technical terms that they must be held by the faithful as essential to participation as Roman Catholics. The four Marian dogmas have been defined by the magisterium over the course of Christian history, using both Scripture and Sacred Tradition, the two elements of the one source of Revelation, as evidence for these proclamations. These four dogmas are: Mary the Mother of God, Perpetual Virginity of Mary, The Immaculate Conception, and The Assumption of Mary into Heaven. The twentieth-century has seen a significant drive to establish a fifth and final Dogma-Mary as Co-Redemptrix.

Commentary on the book of Isaiah is by noted theologian Rev. William G. Most (1914-1999). His contributions to theology have been recognized all over the world. He published 12 books and a host of articles on topics ranging from biblical studies to Mariology and Latin grammar.

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Our Lady in Heaven:

The central object and source of blessedness in heaven is of course God Himself. But the Sacred Humanity of Christ is also an immense source of blessedness, as also His Mother. Pope Pius XII wrote splendidly about this truth (Address to Italian Catholic Action Youth, Dec. 8, 1953. From *The Pope Speaks*, 1954, 1. p. 38. Internal quote is from Dante, *Paradiso*, 31. 130-35): " Surely, in the face of His own Mother, God has gathered together all the splendors of His divine

artistry... . You know, beloved sons and daughters, how easily human beauty enraptures and exalts a kind heart. What would it ever do before the beauty of Mary!. That is why Dante saw in Paradise, in the midst of 'more than a million rejoicing Angels, a beauty smiling—what joy! It was in the eyes of all the other Saints': Mary !"

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