



Essential Evangelization

Mary's Month

The month of May is the month dedicated to Our Blessed Mother. This Catholic tradition dates back to the 13th century and was especially popular among members of the Jesuit order. The Queen of Heaven feast celebrations spread to the entire Church from initial public practices in the Gesu Church in Rome. From there we have received such great traditions as the May Crowning, Litanies to Mary and the Rosary. In this month, the benefits of God's mercy are in great abundance from the throne of this great intercessor: to Jesus through Mary. May 1 is the feast day of Mary, Queen of Heaven, May 13, Our Lady of Fatima, and May 31, the Visitation, a few of the more prominent feasts. Each day in May is celebrated as a different feast day of Mary somewhere in the world.

Paul VI wrote a short encyclical in 1965 using the Month of Mary devotion, and in May, 2002 Pope John Paul II said, "Today we begin the month dedicated to Our Lady, a favorite of popular devotion. In accord with a long-standing tradition of devotion, parishes and families continue to make the month of May a 'Marian' month, celebrating it with many devout liturgical, catechetical and pastoral initiatives!"

She is the Mother of our Church and our greatest saint. She was the perfect soul and vessel for our Saviour's birth and leads us by her great example of faith, her obedience to God's will and commandments and by her suffering in the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

In a recent article from the Catholic News Agency, Rome's chief exorcist, Fr. Gabriele Amorth, cited the efficacy of Mary in performing exorcisms. Fr. Gabriele, in performance of his duties once even asked Satan, "*but why are you more scared when I invoke Our Lady than when I invoke Jesus Christ?*" He answered me, "*Because I am more humiliated to be defeated by a human creature than being defeated by him.*"

Do you need help in defeating a nagging sin in your life? Pray the rosary and ask the help of our most wonderful Mother. Expect a miracle!

*This is one of a series of articles on
Evangelization from the
Evangelization Committee*