

Mary & The Communion of Saints

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The Communion of Saints

- ▶ The spiritual union that exists between the saints in heaven, the souls in purgatory, and the faithful living on earth. Mary, the Queen of Heaven, is a distinguished member of this union. This union is one of grace and good works, and, in recognition of this, **the faithful imitate, venerate, and pray for the intercession of Mary and the saints in heaven** and for the souls in purgatory.
The Catholic Encyclopedia
- ▶ CCC – 946, 947, 953 - What is good for the right hand is good for the left hand, and so it is with grace.

Every Christian is a member of the Body of Christ

- ▶ **1 Corinthians 12:12,13**
- ▶ Romans 6:4
- ▶ Galatians 3:27-29



The dead are very much alive.

- ▶ Death does not separate us from the Body of Christ.
- ▶ The dead are alive in Christ.
- ▶ **Romans 8:35-38**
- ▶ *****Luke 20:38,39**
- ▶ Matthew 11:11



There is only one Body of Christ.

- ▶ Not two, not one on earth and one in heaven.
- ▶ Ephesians 2:13,18
- ▶ **Ephesians 4:4**
- ▶ The Church is the Body of Christ
- ▶ Ephesians 1:22,23
- ▶ **Colossians 1:18**

Do Catholics worship Mary and the saints?

- ▶ **Deuteronomy 18: 10-12** – occultism
- ▶ No spirits
- ▶ No secret knowledge
- ▶ No curses
- ▶ No Satanic forces
- ▶ No Séance
- ▶ Not pantheism
- ▶ We simply ask the saints to pray for us because God is the God of the living.
- ▶ Matthew 17 - Transfiguration

But Mary and the saints can't possibly see or hear us!

- ▶ This comes from a very finite understanding.
- ▶ Could the saints have the same limits as we do?
- ▶ **1 Corinthians 13:12**
- ▶ *****1 Corinthians 15:47-49**
- ▶ 2 Peter 1:3,4 – "Partakers in the Divine Nature" – a gift from God through Jesus.

But Mary and the saints can't possibly see or hear us!

- ▶ *****1 Corinthians 2:9,10**
- ▶ *****Revelation 6:9,10**
- ▶ Luke 16:19-31 (The Rich Man & Lazarus)
- ▶ **Luke 15:7,10** (more rejoicing in heaven...)
- ▶ Matthew 22:29,30 (at the resurrection they are like angels)
- ▶ **Hebrews 12:1** (we are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses)
- ▶ The members of the Body of Christ are given the power.

Why waste your time?

- ▶ It's a good thing to ask for intercession.
- ▶ *****James 5:16-18**
- ▶ 1 Peter 3:12
- ▶ Hebrews 12:22,23
- ▶ Moses and the Melikites
- ▶ **Mary at Cana**



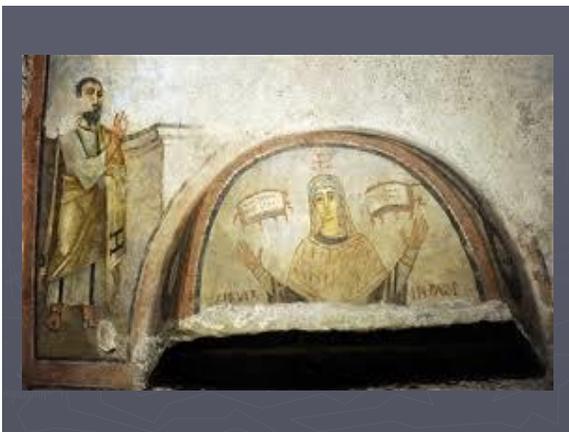
There is one mediator between God and man.

- ▶ **1 Tim 2:5**
- ▶ Jesus is the unique link between God and man.
- ▶ Genesis – Abraham interceded for Sodom and Gomorrah. Moses interceded....
- ▶ **1 Timothy 2:1-4**
- ▶ Romans 15:30-33
- ▶ Colossians 4:2-4 & 1:9
- ▶ 2 Thessalonians 1:11,12



Witness of the Early Church

- ▶ Christian Catacombs
- ▶ An ancient fresco depicts Mary as the Mother of the Church.
- ▶ Mary's image on the tombs indicates that the earliest Christians prayed for her intercession for the dead.





Marian Doctrine

- ▶ Mary the Mother of God
- ▶ Mary's Perpetual Virginity
- ▶ The Immaculate Conception
- ▶ The Assumption



Mother of God

- ▶ Is Jesus God?
- ▶ Was Jesus God when he was 12 years old?
- ▶ Was Jesus God when he was 2 years old?
- ▶ Was Jesus God when he was born?
- ▶ Was Jesus God when he was conceived?
- ▶ Was Jesus God when he was in his mother's womb?
- ▶ Was Mary His mother?
- ▶ Was Mary the Mother of God?
- ▶ Theotokos – Nestorianism - Ephesus 431
- ▶ And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? (Luke 1:43)



Witness of the Early Church

- ▶ Origen insists that, "Mary was indeed the Mother of God. She was the real and proper Mother of the Son whom the gospel testifies was born of her"



Mary's Perpetual Virginity

- ▶ Matthew 1:25
- ▶ "Brethren of the Lord" - Matthew 13:55
- ▶ Adelpnos
- ▶ Luke 1:34
- ▶ Luke 2:41-51



- ▶ **John 19:26,27** "Woman, behold your son."

Witness of the Early Church

- ▶ The perpetual virginity of Mary was also affirmed by Origen as a part of the original deposit of faith. "There is no child of Mary except Jesus, according to the opinion of those who think correctly about her"



Catechism of the Catholic Church

- ▶ "Against this doctrine (Mary's perpetual virginity) the objection is sometime raised that the bible mentions brothers and sisters of Jesus. The Church has always understood these passages as not referring to other children of the Virgin Mary. In fact, James and Joseph, the 'brothers of Jesus,' are the sons of another Mary, a disciple of Christ who Matthew calls 'the other Mary.' They are close relatives of Jesus, according to the Old Testament expression" (CCC 500).

The Immaculate Conception and the Assumption

- ▶ Around the year 320 A.D. Ephrem the Syrian, a brilliant teacher and the greatest poet of the patristic age, described Mary as the most marvelous creature who exists after Jesus and the source of the highest inspiration. He insisted on Mary's spiritual beauty and holiness as well as her freedom from any stain of sin.

The Immaculate Conception

- ▶ The Immaculate Conception was declared by Pope Pius IX on December 8, 1854: "The Most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of Almighty God and by the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune of all stain of original sin" (Pius IX. *Ineffabilis Deus*. 1854.).