

Beyond Baptism

Where the Eucharist Transforms Lives and Hearts.

Mary: First Disciple, Mother of the Church, Queen of May



Happy May and Month of Mary! As we draw closer to the May Crowning, and as we are in the Easter Season, it seems most fitting to talk about Mary and her role in Salvation History. Mary Most Holy, Mother of God and Sweet Clementine needs no introduction. Many know her story as the New Eve, the sinless mother who set in motion the salvation of mankind with her whole gift of self and “yes!” to God.

She was Traditionally young when the angel Gabriel appeared before her, and she said little in the new Testament; yet the Church has many feast days, intercessory prayers, traditions and devotions to Mother Mary. The angel Gabriel himself gave us THE prayer to Mary. Why exactly is this? Sometimes we tend to underestimate Mary’s role in Salvation history, and thus her relation to us.

The first thing Mary did after encountering Christ in the flesh was to “ponder Him in her heart.” Her “yes” to God did not end at the Nativity—it continued faithfully through Christ’s ministry, Passion, and Resurrection. Mary was not only the first to believe but the first and greatest disciple.

At the wedding at Cana, Mary intercedes on behalf of the hosts, prompting Jesus’ first public miracle. In doing so, she reveals her role as a spiritual mediator—not only asking for wine, but symbolically petitioning on behalf of all Israel awaiting its Savior. Her command to the servants, “Do whatever He tells you,” remains one of the clearest directives ever given by a disciple.

Mary is the model of perfect humanity. Her sinlessness, while extraordinary, did not isolate her—it drew her into deeper union with God. Even in the face of grief, as a widow witnessing her Son’s brutal crucifixion, she did not run from suffering but embraced it, sustained by faith. She shows us how to remain steadfast in trust, even when God’s plan is shrouded in sorrow.

Venerable Fulton Sheen reflected profoundly on Mary’s unique role as the Mother of Christ:

“He [Christ] was born of a Mother whom He chose before He was born. It is the only instance in history where both the Son willed the Mother, and the Mother willed the Son. And this is what the Creed means when it says, ‘born of the Virgin Mary.’ She was called by God as Aaron was, and Our Lord was born not just of her flesh, but by her consent.

Before taking unto Himself a human nature, He consulted with the Woman, to ask her if she would give Him a man. The Manhood of Jesus was not stolen from humanity, as Prometheus stole fire from heaven; it was given as a gift.”

It is fitting, then, that the Church dedicates the month of May to Mary. The tradition of May Crowning, dating back to the fifth century, honors her as Queen of Heaven and our spiritual mother. May includes several Marian feast days and overlaps with the Easter season—a time of joy and renewal in which Mary’s role shines brightly.

As Pope Paul VI wrote, May is a time when prayers “find their way more easily to the compassionate heart of Our Blessed Lady.” It is a season for deeper devotion, for honoring Mary not only with flowers and hymns, but with imitation of her steadfast faith and love.

In this Easter season and month of May, where we are meant to celebrate our salvation through Christ as well as the Church’s mission in the world, let us ponder Mary’s mission, and how she gave us Christ through her fiat.

Mary Mother of God, Pray for us!



The Eucharistic Miracle of Macerata

Macerata, Italy in the Cathedral of Mary assumed into Heaven and St. Julian, there is a corporal stained with the Precious Blood. This miracle occurred in the 14th century, when a priest was having doubts in his faith. He struggled with the reality of the Transubstantiation, and while celebrating mass, prayed during this struggle. As he took the host and broke it before Holy Communion, he witnessed blood flow from the Host, and stain the corporal and chalice underneath.

The priest informed his Bishop, Niccolò of San Martino, who ordered that the Relic Blood-stained cloth be brought to the cathedral and investigated. In 1494, one of the first Confraternities in honor of the Blessed Sacrament was founded at Macerata. As a result of this strong presence of the Blessed Sacrament, the tradition of the Forty Hours Devotion was born in 1556!

The Forty Hours Devotion is a special forty-hour period of continuous prayer made before the Blessed Sacrament in solemn exposition. The “40 Hours” is taken from the time the world waited in darkness between the Death of our Lord and His Resurrection. Forty is also a sacred number, hearkening back to Noah and the flood, the Israelites in the desert, and Christ fasting.

Each year, on the occasion of the Feast of Corpus Christi, the corporal from the Miracle is carried in procession behind the Blessed Sacrament.

Marian Fun Facts!

In the United States, the first known Mary Garden was established at St. Joseph Parish in Woods Hole, Mass., in 1932. A Mary garden is a small, sacred garden often associated with Catholics and Anglicans.

There is an ancient Eastern tradition that when Jesus descended to Gehenna, Joseph was the first to run up to Him and speak. Joseph asked "How is your Mother?"

St. Augustine's Prayer to Mary

O blessed Virgin Mary, who can worthily repay thee thy just dues of praise and thanksgiving, thou who by the wondrous assent of thy will didst rescue a fallen world? What songs of praise can our weak human nature recite in thy honor, since it is by thy intervention alone that it has found the way to restoration. Accept, then, such poor thanks as we have here to offer, though they be unequal to thy merits; and receiving our vows, obtain by thy prayers the remission of our offenses. Carry thou our prayers within the sanctuary of the heavenly audience, and bring forth from it the antidote of our reconciliation. May the sins we bring before Almighty God through thee, become pardonable through thee; may what we ask for with sure confidence, through thee be granted. Take our offering, grant us our requests, obtain pardon for what we fear, for thou art the sole hope of sinners. Through thee we hope for the remission of our sins, and in thee, O blessed Lady, is our hope of reward. Holy Mary, succour the miserable, help the fainthearted, comfort the sorrowful, pray for thy people, plead for the clergy, intercede for all women consecrated to God; may all who keep thy holy commemoration feel now thy help and protection. Be thou ever ready to assist us when we pray, and bring back to us the answers to our prayers. Make it thy continual care to pray for the people of God, thou who, blessed by God, didst merit to bear the Redeemer of the world, who liveth and reigneth, world without end. Amen.

A DAY DEDICATED TO **BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS AND THE EUCHARIST**

SATURDAY
JUNE 21ST

LYNDHURST MIDDLE SCHOOL
619 PAGE AVE. LYNDHURST NJ

TICKETS PRICES ~ \$30 ~ \$100
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH INCLUDED

DOORS OPEN AT 8:30 AM

PRESENTED BY
Beyond Baptism
Where the Eucharist's Traditions Live and Matter

HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN
CARLO ACUTIS AND THE EUCHARIST

"A SAINT IN SNEAKERS"

SCAN ME

<https://CarloAcutis.eventbrite.com>

OFFICE FOR EVANGELIZATION
ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

SAVE THE DATE "A SAINT IN SNEAKERS" Celebrating the Life and inspiration of Carlo Acutis

Join us for a special celebration in honor of Blessed Carlo Acutis, often referred to as the "Patron Saint of the Internet, A Saint in Sneakers"

Carlo was a teenager who led a normal life, soccer, Pokemon, and the internet. We will learn how Carlo put God first above all his interests, in fact he used his passion for technology to document Eucharistic miracles around the world. A day of faith, featured films, guest speakers and honoring the first millennial saint of the Catholic Church—highlighting his profound impact on youth and the digital age.

Carlo Acutis is an inspiring example of a young person who used modern technology to share his faith with the world. Despite his love for video games, soccer, and the internet, he always prioritized his relationship with God.

Join us as we explore how Carlo's simple yet profound devotion to the Eucharist led him to document miracles and spread the message of Christ's presence in the world.

His story continues to resonate with today's youth, showing how faith and modern technology can work hand-in-hand."