

RCIA Corner

What's the Deal with Mary?

Henry Flood

One of my earliest inquiries around the age of 15 concerned Mary. As a Bible reader, I noticed that there were passages of Scripture that mentioned Mary outside of the Christmas narrative... however, during my Southern Methodist years, Mary only came out of the closet at Christmas time and then quickly returned to her dusty place with the artificial Christmas tree. Rarely, if ever, was Mary discussed except in anti-Catholic terms.



When I did inquire about the other Marian verses in the Bible, my early attempts to do so provoked one of three responses: stone-faced silence, anger, or a suggestion that I go visit some Catholic group of idol worshippers. I wondered about Mary's role beyond just giving birth to Jesus. I felt that Mary was more than just a vessel. Why did God choose Mary? She must have been a very special person. It seemed to me that you could not really talk about the Incarnation and ignore Mary's words in the Annunciation (see Luke 1:26-35). Throughout Jesus' earthly life, Mary was there- latent in the background, but providentially there.

Read and share this and other stories at chnetwork.org/converts

Reflection Questions

1. What role does Mary play in salvation history?
2. Why do you think Mary isn't more universally honored by Christians?
3. What are some aspects of Catholic devotion to Mary that you'd like to learn more about?

By her complete adherence to the Father's will, to his Son's redemptive work, and to every prompting of the Holy Spirit, the Virgin Mary is the Church's model of faith and charity. Thus she is a 'preeminent and . . . wholly unique member of the Church'; indeed, she is the 'exemplary realization' of the Church.

**Catechism of the Catholic Church
Paragraph 2591**



Helping others to discover the truth and beauty of the Catholic Church and to make the journey home.

Find more resources at:
chnetwork.org/RCIA

Suggested Further Reading

