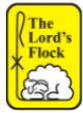


# Mary, Did You Know?

(Women of the Bible Series, Part 8)  
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## THE LORD'S FLOCK GROW DIGEST

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The Blessed Virgin Mary has assumed numerous titles of respect, but one stands out specifically to Filipino devotees: “Mama Mary/ “Inang Maria.” Whenever a believer is confronted by challenging situations, s/he can seek “her” comfort and whisper, “Mama Mary, help me.” Moreover, the Augustinian perspective about the Blessed Virgin Mary speaks about her crucial role in the divine plan as the mother of Christ and the mother of the Church; being the New Eve; and the epitome of virtues.

1. **Mary in the Divine Plan.** She is the first and perfect disciple. Her immaculate Conception which was the plan of God was one of her privileges. She had conceived Jesus in her heart before she conceived Him in her womb. Thus, she was not just a physical mother but a mother of faith (living model) who said “yes” to God without drama or conditions.
2. **Mary’s Gift of Motherhood and The Cross.** Mary was beside Jesus standing at the cross - not fainting, not giving up: “Mary, behold your son; son, behold your mother” (Jn. 19-26-27). Jesus gave us His Mother; hence we have become an extension of the Holy Family. Also, St. Augustine said that Mary who had given birth to Jesus, also gave birth to His members, the Church. She did not stop being a mother when Jesus died on the cross.
3. **Mary as the New Eve (St Augustine’s Marian devotion).** Her faith and humility were deep and grounded. Jesus Christ compared Mary to a “New Eve “who said “yes” to God; the sins of the original Eve were forgiven because of Mary.
4. **Mary, Our Mother: a personal relationship.** Just like any mother, she prays fervently for us and we must thank her for her intercession.

5. **Mary and the Church: The Marian Face of Discipleship.** Mary is the Mother of the Church. Thus, we celebrate Mary on the Monday after Pentecost (the birthday of the Church).

6. **Devotion, Not Deviation:** Loving Mary leads us to loving Christ. “Do whatever He tells you” (Jn. 2:5). We love her as a mother, not as a god. Hence, Mary is venerated, not worshipped.

7. **Mary as our model of virtues.** Let us imitate her simplicity, courage and her “yes.” She is our “mother” because she cooperated in our rebirth. We are not orphans; we have a mother in heaven -- a mother who perpetually assists us.

8. Liturgically, we celebrate Mary all-year round to remind us of her presence. Among the feast days, the **Marian month** is December- with the feast of the Immaculate Concepcion, Lady of Guadalupe, and the Christmas Novena in preparation for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Conclusion:** Mary’s life mirrors the moments in our lives. Let us imitate her during her moments of sadness (Jesus in the cross); joy (Jesus’ birth); doubt (when she and Joseph fled to Egypt). Mary truly lived by embracing the will of God.

**Reflection:** How often do you pray and call on Mama Mary? How has she interceded for you?

**Prayer: The Hail Mary**

### SCRIBES MINISTRY:

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