**Prayer in Communion with Mary**

(Revised Questions for Discussion)

Session I Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think that the first action of Jesus’ followers after the Ascension was to
gather as a group and pray? How did Mary’s presence there reflect her importance to
the early Church and to the Church today?

2. How have you felt the presence of the blessed saints in heaven in your life?

 Are you ever reluctant to ask Mary and the other saints to intercede for you?

 Why or why not? What can you do to encourage the faithful to ask for help from Mary and the saints?

3. What “great things” has the Lord done for you? How do you choose to “magnify” him in your ministry?

4. Discuss how the *Sub tuum* [*We turn to you for protection*] is relevant to your life. Does it reflect your relationship with Mary? Why or why not?

5. How do images of Mary, hymns, and church architecture help you understand Mary and teach about her?

Session II Discussion Questions

1. What are your personal reasons for honoring Mary and for teaching others to do so?

 How do you use Mary to extend your Church family?

2. Are there any phrases from the Hail Mary that resonate with you personally? Why?

3. How does adding “Jesus” or “Jesus Christ” after the phrase “fruit of your womb” expand the meaning of that phrase?

1. What effect does trusting Mary have on your life, and how do you express that trust? What consolation do you experience from knowing that Mary will pray for you at the hour of your death?

5. How does it change the character of the “Hail Mary” to know that an alternate beginning for the prayer is “Rejoice, Mary”? How might you use this alternate start in your evangelization?

6. How might having a “little corner” dedicated to images of Christ, Mary, and the saints deepen family faith? How can you incorporate this concept into your evangelization?

7. Reflect on the value of morning and evening prayer. Which elements of Bishop Carroll’s suggestions can you use in your daily devotions?

Session III Discussion Questions

1. Reflect on the descriptions of Mary: the attentive Virgin, the Virgin in prayer, the believing and obeying Virgin-Mother, and the Virgin presenting offerings. How do these phrases help you understand Mary as a model of the Church in divine worship?

2. Of the four orientations for teaching about Mary (biblical, liturgical, ecumenical, and anthropological), which one do you find easiest? Which is most challenging to you? Explain your answers.

1. How does the Angelus magnify the message of the Hail Mary? Why would Paul VI exhort Catholics to continue its traditional recitation? How does knowing the history of the Angelus and other Marian devotions help you appreciate them as a part of Catholic tradition?
2. What can you do to strengthen the relationship between liturgical prayer and the Rosary in your personal prayer life? Where can you pause and incorporate prayer into your day? How can you deepen the meaning of the Rosary for yourself and for those you evangelize?

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**Prayer in Communion with Mary**

(Original Set of Questions Appropriate for Quiet Pondering)

Session I Discussion Questions

1. What stories helped form your early prayer life? How did they influence you then? How did your view of them changed as your faith matured?

2. Why do you think that the first action of Jesus’ followers after the Ascension was to gather as a group and pray? How did Mary’s presence there reflect her importance to the early Church and to the Church today?

3. How does Paul’s emphasis on Jesus being “born of a woman” make Jesus more real to us?

4. What “great things” has the Lord done for you? How do you choose to “magnify” him in your ministry?

5. How have you felt the presence of the blessed saints in heaven in your life?

6. Are you ever reluctant to ask Mary and the other saints to intercede for you? Why or why not? What can you do to encourage the faithful to ask for help from Mary and the saints?

7. Discuss how the *Sub tuum* is relevant to your life. Does it reflect your relationship with Mary? Why or why not?

8. How do images of Mary, hymns, and church architecture help you understand Mary and teach about her?

Session II Discussion Questions

1. What are your personal reasons for honoring Mary and for teaching others to do so?

2. How do you use Mary to extend your Church family?

3. How does adding “Jesus” or “Jesus Christ” after the phrase “fruit of your womb” expand the meaning of that phrase? Is it significant that different cultures use one term or another? Explain your answer.

4. Reflect on why Marian prayers evolved over time. How does this continuing change reflect the faithful’s relationship with Mary?

5. How does it change the character of the “Hail Mary” to know that an alternate beginning for the prayer is “Rejoice, Mary”? How might you use this alternate start in your evangelization?

6. How does Mary’s use of her freedom serve as a model for your choices?

7. What effect does trusting Mary have on your life, and how do you express that trust?

8. What consolation do you experience from knowing that Mary will pray for you at the hour of your death?

9. Are there any phrases from the Hail Mary that resonate with you personally? Why?

10. How might having a “little corner” dedicated to images of Christ, Mary, and the saints deepen family faith? How can you incorporate this concept into your evangelization?

11. Reflect on the value of morning and evening prayer. Which elements of Bishop Carroll’s suggestions can you use in your daily devotions?

Session III Discussion Questions

1. Reflect on the descriptions of Mary: the attentive Virgin, the Virgin in prayer, the believing and obeying Virgin-Mother, and the Virgin presenting offerings. How do these phrases help you understand Mary as a model of the Church in divine worship?

2. Of the four orientations for teaching about Mary (biblical, liturgical, ecumenical, and anthropological), which one do you find easiest? Which is most challenging to you? Explain your answers.

3. How does knowing the history of the Angelus and other Marian devotions help you appreciate them as a part of Catholic tradition? Which incident from history helps you relate to these devotions?

4. How does the Angelus magnify the message of the Hail Mary? Why would Paul VI exhort Catholics to continue its traditional recitation?

5. Where can you pause and incorporate prayer into your day? How can you, as part of your evangelization, encourage others to build prayer into their schedule?

6. How can you deepen the meaning of the Rosary for yourself and for those you evangelize? What images or songs might help people contemplate the mysteries of the Rosary?

7. What can you do to strengthen the relationship between liturgical prayer and the Rosary in your personal prayer life?

8. Reflect on your personal ease or difficulty with praying the Rosary. Does it help you to know that others struggle with this devotion? Why or why not?

Summary questions prepared by Anne Malone, Dayton, Ohio