

**Looking for Answers –
Explore What The Catholic Church Really Teaches –
Part 9**



Question:

Why do Catholics worship Mary as though She were a goddess, when it is clear in Scripture that She was not a supernatural being?

Answer:



Catholics **DO NOT** worship Mary, the Mother of Christ – as though She were a deity. Of all the misconceptions about Catholic belief and practice, this one is the most absurd. Catholics are just as aware as Protestants that Mary was a human creature, and therefore not entitled to the honors which are reserved to God alone. What many non-Catholics mistake for adoration is a very profound love and veneration, nothing more. Mary is not adored, first because God forbids it, and secondly, because the Canon Law of the Catholic Church, which is based on Divine Law, forbids it. Canon Law 1255, of the 1918 Codex, strictly forbids adoration of anyone other than the Holy Trinity.

However, Catholics do feel that Mary is entitled to a great measure of exultation because, in choosing Her as the Mother of Redemption, God Himself exalted Her – exalted Her more than any other human person before or since. Catholics heap tribute and honor on Mary because they earnestly desire to be *followers of God, as most dear children*. (Ephesians 5:1). Mary Herself prophesied: *For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. Because He that is mighty, hath done great things to me; and holy is His Name.* (St. Luke 1:48 – 49).

Catholics know that every bit of the glory they give to Mary redounds to the glory of Her Divine Son, just as Mary magnified God, not Herself, when Elizabeth blessed Her. (St. Luke 1:41 – 55). They know that the closer they draw to Mary, the closer they draw to Jesus Who was born of Her. In the year 434, St. Vincent of Lerins defended Christian devotion to Mary this way: *Therefore, may God forbid that anyone should attempt to defraud Holy Mary of Her privilege of divine grace and Her special glory. For by a unique favor of our Lord and God, She is confessed to be the most true and most Blessed Mother of God.* Today seventy-five percent of all Christians still hold to this same view.



Question:

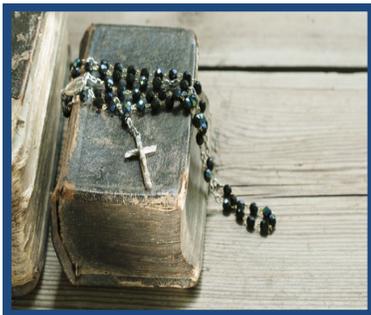
Why do Catholics pray to Mary and the saints when Sacred Scripture states that there is one Mediator between God and man – Christ Jesus? (1 Timothy 2:5)

Answer:

When Catholics pray to Mary and the other saints in Heaven they are not bypassing Christ, Whom they acknowledge as the sole Mediator between God and man. They are going to Christ *through* Mary and the other saints. They are asking Mary and the other saints to *intercede* for them before the throne of Christ in Heaven. *For the continual prayer of a just man availeth much.* (St. James 5:16).

How much more availing is the unceasing prayer of the sinless Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ! St. Paul asked his fellow Christians to intercede for him: *Brethren, pray for us.* (2 Thessalonians 3:1). And again: *I beseech you therefore, brethren, through Our Lord Jesus Christ, and by the charity of the Holy Ghost, that you help me in your prayers for me to God...* (Romans 15:30). Christ must particularly approve of our going to Him through Mary, His Blessed Mother, because He chose to come to us through Her, and at Cana, He performed His first miracle after a word from His Mother. (St. John to: 2 – 11).

It is clear in Sacred Scripture that the saints in Heaven will intercede for us before the throne of Christ if they are petitioned in prayer (Apocalypse or Revelations 8:3 – 4), and it is clear in the records of primitive Christianity that the first Christians eagerly sought their intercession. St. John Chrysostom wrote in the fourth century: *When thou perceivest that God is chastening thee, fly not to His enemies, but to His friends, the martyrs, the saints, and those who were pleasing to Him, and who have great power.* If the saints have such power with God, how much more His own Mother.



Question:

Why do Catholics repeat the same prayer over and over again when they pray the Rosary? Is this not the vain repetition condemned by Christ in Matthew 6:7?

Answer:

Catholics DO NOT just repeat the same prayer over and over again when they pray the Rosary. The Rosary is a progression of many prayers – the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Glory be to the Father, the Hail Mary and the Salve Regina – and is accompanied by holy meditations. As the Rosary progresses, Catholics meditate on the Joyful, the Sorrowful, Luminous and the Glorious mysteries of the life of Christ and His Mother.

True, the Hail Mary is many times repeated during the course of the Rosary, and some of the other prayers are repeated several times, but this is not *vain* repetition, certainly not the vain repetition which Our Lord condemned. The vain repetition Jesus condemned is that of people who pray standing *in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men.* (St. Matthew 6:5).

No prayer is vain, no matter how often repeated, if it is sincere, for Christ Himself engaged in repetitious prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane – *He went again: and He prayed the third time, saying the selfsame word* – (St. Matthew 26:39, 42, 44) and we are informed in the Apocalypse (Revelations) 4:8 that the angels in Heaven never cease repeating, night and day, the canticle: *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was, and Who is, and Who is to come.*

The publican humbly repeated the prayer: *O God, be merciful to me, a sinner,* and he went away justified; whereas the Pharisee went home unjustified after his proud, extemporaneous and long-winded prayer. (St. Luke 18:9 – 14). God was likewise pleased with the repetitious prayer of the three young men in the fiery furnace, whom He preserved miraculously untouched by the flames. (Daniel 3:52 – 90). Protestants also engage in repetitious prayer: the same prayers at mealtime grace, the same prayers at benediction, etc. The time lapse is no factor; it is still repetitious.

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