

TREASURES of OUR FAITH

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Greetings brothers and sisters. As we go through this 'Year of Faith', each week we will take a journey together to deepen and rediscover our faith as Catholic Christians. We will take time to look at the rich traditions of our Church, we'll look at what certain things signify and their symbolism, take time to answer some frequently asked questions and look at why we do certain things as Catholics. This week we'll look at the role of Mary in our faith.

Mary, the mother of God, is the first disciple as well as an example to us all of true discipleship and she is also a beautiful example for us in her willingness to say YES to God, to fully be of service. Mary's "Yes" is something that we too reflect in our own way, when we say yes, 'we believe'; yes, 'we will follow' and yes, 'let us be of service to God and neighbor.

Her life exemplified true morality and she shows us how to love unconditionally. Devotion to Mary instills in us compassion, tenderness, gentleness and strength, not just for our families and friends but for all the children of God. For us, Mary is a symbol of Church. As a disciple, Mary was at the foot of the cross all her life, just as all disciples are called to be, we are all called to be there with her. Mary's presence is often times seen in her love for those the world tends to forget, she is most at home on the fringes, in the alleyways, the places of the poor, in their homes and in their hearts. She is the original option for the poor. Devotion to Mary must be rooted in the concerns of the world, with equality, justice, responsibility for economic and political issues and the earth's survival in mind. Ultimately, any and all devotion must lead us to glorifying God. This is why Mary intercedes for us and is always pointing us in the direction of her Son Jesus.

We learn from Mary how to be a blessing for others...