

RCIA

RCIA HO Class 13 Marian Doctrines

- 1) October and May are traditionally considered months of devotion to Mary.
- 2) **The Immaculate Conception** (Dec. 8th). Mary was conceived in the womb of her mother Ann in the normal way. Her father's name was Joachim. But, by the power of God she was preserved free from the stain of original sin so that when she conceived Jesus He would not be touched by sin. We celebrate Mary's birthday on Sept. 8th. We believe that Mary never committed a sin.
- 3) Mary is the Mother of Jesus. Jesus is God. **Mary is the Mother of God.** (Holy Day Jan. 1)
- 4) Mary was probably about 16 years old when she married Joseph and had the baby Jesus. This was the custom in her time and place.
- 5) **The Miraculous or Virginal Conception of Jesus.** Jesus was miraculously conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of Mary. Joseph is His foster father, or step-father, not His biological Father.
- 6) **The Perpetual Virginity of Mary.** Mary did not have any other children besides Jesus. The Bible speaks of Jesus' brothers, but there is only one word for brothers, cousins, step-brothers, etc. in the language of Jesus (Hebrew). The Church's constant Tradition is that Mary had no other children.
- 7) **The Assumption.** At the end of her life **Mary was assumed** (taken) by God into heaven. She may or may not have died. **Jesus ascended** (went up by His own power as God) into heaven after His Resurrection.
- 8) Mary was fully human (woman), not in any way divine (God). **We do not worship Mary.** Worship is given to God alone. We venerate (honor) Mary as the Mother of Jesus and the Mother of God and ask her to pray for us since she is closer to Jesus than anyone else. We pray "through" Mary, not "to" Mary.
- 9) According to St. Louis de Montfort, God came to man (the world) through Mary, so it makes sense that man (the world) should "return" to God through Mary.

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RCIA WKSH Class 13 Marian Doctrines (BCL #5:62ff)

- 1) Explain what is meant by the Immaculate Conception of Mary.

- 2) Explain what is meant by the Miraculous or Virginal Conception of Jesus.

- 3) Was Mary born with original sin like the rest of us? Why not? How did that happen?

- 4) Did Mary ever commit any actual sins?

- 5) Did Mary have any children besides Jesus? How do we know that? What does the Bible say? What does the Church say? How do we explain all this? (See, for example MT 12:46)

- 6) Do Catholics worship Mary? Why or why not?

- 7) How are Mary's Assumption into Heaven, and Jesus' Ascension into Heaven different.