



The Virtues of Mary

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WHAT IS VIRTUE?

- ❖ **A virtue is a moral habit which generally results in the gaining or maintaining of your values. Your values are based on your moral standard which should be your own life. Virtues are pre-thought out methods for achieving your values. This means that with rational virtues, acting virtuous leads to a happy and successful life.**
- ❖ **“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act, but a habit.” (Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, c. 350 B.C.).**

HUMILITY

- ❖ The virtue of humility is our acknowledgement and recognition that we are nothing before God. Without Him and the graces that He bestow upon us, we are nothing. We completely depend on Him.
- ❖ At the Annunciation, Our Blessed Mother must have been tempted to show a little bit of pride – for just imagine for a moment, that in her all of man's salvation was hanging in a balance. She must have known that her 'yes' is desperately needed for God to become flesh. Yet, with her greatness, she remained completely humble.

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- ❖ **Luke 1: 38 Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."**
- ❖ **Luke 1: 46 - 49 And Mary said:_* "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; 47my spirit rejoices in God my savior. 48 For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. 49The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.**

PURITY

According to Saint Alphonsus Liguori, chastity of all virtues is the most difficult to practice. By her example, her gift of virginity to the Father, the Blessed Mother has given us a perfect example that with prayer and practice, it may be difficult, but not impossible.

Mary is the Virgin of all virgins, a template for all of humankind to emulate for the sin of the flesh is often the portal to mortal sin and damnation. Sexual purity in body, mind and heart should be taught to all, particularly to the young people.

PURITY

- ✿ ***Luke 1: 34 But Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?”***
- ✿ ***Matthew 1: 23 “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us.”***

PRUDENCE

The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us (1806), “Prudence is the virtue that disposes practical reason to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it.”

PRUDENCE

- ✦ The prudent woman looks where she is going. Prudence is “right reason in action,” writes St. Thomas Aquinas. The prudent woman determines and directs her conduct in accordance with this judgment. With the help of this virtue, we apply moral principles without error and overcome doubts about good and evil in our everyday circumstances. *Our Lady was most perfect in prudence; She was careful, guarded, circumspect in all She said or did. She reflected, and was silent and asked God's help before She spoke or acted.*

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According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Prudence is the virtue that disposes practical reason to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it; 'the prudent man looks where he is going' [Prov 14:15]" (1806).

PRUDENCE

In other words, a prudent person carefully deliberates before speaking and acting, always seeking to cooperate with the will of God. This is why Mary "pondered" after Gabriel greeted her in the way that he did. She was thoughtful and considerate of herself and others, never giving in to reckless impulses or outbursts.

FAITH

- ✦ According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Faith is a gift from God as a supernatural virtue infused by Him as a means for man to believe in Him. Therefore, to believe in God, we need the help of the Holy Spirit. Through Mary's faith, the evil done by Eve was remedied. Through Mary's steadfast faith and confidence in God, consented to her fiat to be the Mother of God.
- ✦ ***Luke 1:45 "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." (Visitation)***

OBEDIENCE

- ✿ Mary was obedient to His Will – to please God, she obeyed even the Roman emperor and undertook the long journey of at least seventy miles to Bethlehem, in the winter, in poverty only to give birth to her son in a manger. She was obedient to Joseph taking that long trip into Egypt – above all, she was obedient to the will of God, when she offered her son to death.

PATIENCE

- ✿ According to Fr. Dominic Radecki, “patience is a virtue which helps us, for the love of God, to calmly bear our tribulations and preserve serenity amid the sufferings of life.
- ✿ Patience tempers sorrow and staves off excessive anger and complaining. Patience is the guardian of all the virtues, for there are obstacles to be encountered in any good work, and they can be overcome only by patience.

PATIENCE

- ✿ The Blessed Mother demonstrated throughout her life the virtue of patience. She endured suffering without complaint or losing hope and joy. The scriptures demonstrate how Mary's life offered many opportunities to practice heroic patience - awaiting Joseph's response to the news of the incarnation, travelling to Bethlehem, fleeing to Egypt, and waiting for the sword (the death of her Son on the cross) that would pierce her heart.

PATIENCE

- ✦ It is also patience that makes Saints: Patience hath a perfect work, [James 1:4] bearing in peace, not only the crosses which come immediately from God, such as sickness, poverty, but also those which come from men---persecutions, injuries, and the rest. St. John saw all the Saints bearing palm branches---the emblem of martyrdom---in their hands; After this I saw a great multitude, and palms were in their hands; [Apoc. 7:9] thereby denoting that all adults who are saved must be martyrs, either by shedding their blood for Christ or by patience.

POVERTY

- ✿ While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”
- ✿ Our Lord Jesus Christ, came to this world in utmost poverty, so that we may become rich. The Son of God, in order to bring the message of true wealth, was born in a manger.

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CHARITY (LOVE)

Mary's blind obedience to God at the Annunciation, her constant and unceasing prayer pondering things in her heart, here heroic patience and her silence and tears at the foot of the cross, she would have not been able to endure all these without her LOVE for God. Mary's entire life was deeply rooted in the love of God. "The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. "

The Holy Spirit who descended on Mary on the Annunciation, had taken possession of her heart from the first instance of her conception. Her love of God is complete and perfect without any trace of selfishness.

CHARITY (LOVE)

The Blessed Mother's love of God was so perfect that no one can find any defect from it. Her purity surpasses that of mankind. Divine love according to Saint Bernard so penetrated the soul of Mary, that no part was left untouched by it. She loved with her whole heart, her whole soul and her whole strength.

✦ Above all, Mary love mankind in the same way she loved God. She constantly intercedes for us, but only for those who are willing to pay the price – the constant and unyielding call to a life of holiness. She continues to shield us with her mantle, ever asking Her son, Our Lord Jesus – give them one more chance. No some more chances until the poor soul comes back to her bosom. The Hail Mary is a prayer of love, the love for us sinners.