

## Mariology: Seeking To Know And Love Our Spiritual Mother

Often times there is a confusion between veneration of Mary and adoration to her. Of course, we don't and never adore the Blessed Virgin as our Protestant brothers and sisters accuse us of this practice. When we honor her we never displease our Lord. It also can never interfere with our love and devotion to Christ. Jesus is never envious when we honor His Mother. On the contrary, He wills it. The best example of this is expressed in the Fourth Commandment: "Honor your father and mother." Is not the Blessed Virgin our Mother? One only needs to look at when Jesus Himself was hanging on the Cross and gave His Mother as our Mother. The reason for this was because Jesus knew very well that we need a mother like her. She is not simply a metaphorical mother and we are not her metaphorical children. Mary is TRULY our mother in the supernatural order. Not only does Jesus desire us to be devoted to her; but like all mothers, we are called to be obedient. This is precisely what Marian devotion consists of: love and obedience. If we follow Christ's example of devotion to His Mother, then we should not be afraid in giving her "too much" love for we will never come to love her as Jesus did. There is no other way, that is surer, closer and quicker, to Jesus than through Mary. AD JESUM PER MARIAM (To Jesus through Mary). In the New Testament, Mary is the new dwelling place of God. She is the new Ark of the Covenant. The Ark of the Old Covenant in the Old Testament was also the dwelling place of God. A perfect example of a deep devotion to Mary could be seen from Saint Pope John Paul II's papal motto, Totus Tuus (totally yours) and his Theology of the Body. This was based on the body within God's revelation, thus installing theological anthropology. This is about seeking to understand man and his destiny from God's perspective. When we combine theological anthropology with Mariology the result is taking a look at how God sees the most beautiful and wonderful human person He ever created. The Church cannot separate the Son from the Mother. Through this beautiful and wonderful human person, we see the genuine significance of Catholic devotion to Mary through the Incarnation itself. During this Advent season let us open our hearts to rediscovering the powerful and loving intercession of Our Blessed Mother Mary. -*Sherrie Clutts D.R.E.*