

## How is Mary the "New Eve"?

Eve, the wife of Adam, became the "mother of all the living," as we read in Genesis, chapter 3, verse 20. Because of Adam and Eve's disobedience to God, sin and death entered the world, and all of Eve's children are born in original sin.

Through the obedience of Mary, the handmaid of the Lord, Jesus Christ entered the world as man to reverse the disobedience of Adam and Eve. For this reason, Christ is considered the "New Adam."

Christ, the Son of Mary, offers a new life of grace to all who believe in Him. All who accept Christ's invitation become His brothers and sisters, and become the spiritual children of Mary, the New Eve.

Many Fathers of the Church clearly saw the connection between Eve and Mary, and would frequently claim: "death through Eve, life through Mary."

Much more recently, Pope Paul VI wrote in his *Credo of the People of the God* in 1968: "We believe that the Holy Mother of God, the New Eve, Mother of the Church, continues in heaven to exercise her maternal role on behalf of the members of Christ."

The train of thought may be summarized this way:

- Eve became the "mother of all the living" (Genesis 3:20).
- Because of Adam and Eve's disobedience to God, sin and death entered the world, and all of Eve's children are born in original sin.
- Through Mary's obedience, Jesus Christ entered the world to reverse the disobedience of Adam and Eve.
- Christ is the "New Adam" (see Romans 5:12-21).
- Christ, the Son of Mary, offers a new life of grace to all who believe in Him.
- Christ entrusted us to Mary on the Cross (see John 19:26-27)
- All who are reborn in Christ become the spiritual children of Mary, the New Eve.
- Many Fathers of the Church in the early centuries of the Church's life saw the connection between Eve and Mary, and would frequently claim: "death through Eve, life through Mary."