



From the Deacon's Desk

There is some interesting news in the art world that is perfect to mark the start of Mary's month. Art historians recently identified a terracotta sculpture as a previously unknown work by Leonardo da Vinci. It's believed he created the work in 1472 when he was 19 or twenty. It's now my very favorite image of Mary and Christ, both individually and together. I invite you to spend some time reflecting on it as part of your month's activities honoring Mary. If you lack the estimated [and minimum] \$450 million to buy it for your living room, here are some other things you can do:



- Reach a family decision to commit to praying the rosary each day in May.
- Have each member of the family lead the rosary.
- Younger children might enjoy creating a diorama for a Mary altar; a specific place where the family will gather for their prayer. More than one child? Make more than one Mary altar. Have everyone make a Mary altar [yes, even parents]. Make it a family project.
- Let the kids use some of their creativity and computer smarts to build presentations about Mary, her life, and her legacy. Share and present to the family. Share with other relatives. Grandma and Grandpa will be thrilled to be part of this activity. Skype and Facetime resolve the distance problems.
- Make "Mary Trading Cards". Mary has 45 devotional titles, four dogmatic titles, and 23 titles associate with apparitions. Create a card for each with an appropriate image, historical info, and overview of the title. Bubblegum is optional
- This is a good opportunity to ensure everyone has a good rosary ... gather around the monitor and check out Amazon; head to Indy and visit one of the religious goods stores and let everyone pick out their own. Don't forget to pick up/download guides for everyone.
- Make a crown of flowers; put it on your statue of Mary if you have one. If not, this might be a good time to get one. Plant flowers [marigolds are traditional].

Mary is the perfect model for today. She was a daughter, a bride, and a mother. Christ's mother, and our mother too.

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