



Mary was the Mother of Jesus and His Associate in the Work of Redemption. By devout and assiduous prayer to her we can go "to Jesus through Mary."

FAVORITE PRAYERS TO OUR LADY

**The Most Beautiful Prayers found in
the Liturgy and Tradition of the Church,
including the Writings of Saints and Popes,
and the Faithful Devoted to Mary**

By
Anthony M. Buono
Editor of the Dictionary of Mary

Illustrated



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PRAYING TO MARY IS OUR CHRISTIAN HERITAGE
—From the beginning Christians have praised Mary as the Mother of God and prayed to her both in the Liturgy and in private prayer. She is “the glory of [the heavenly] Jerusalem, . . . the surpassing pride of [the new] Israel, . . . the great honor of our [Christian] people” (Judith 15:9).

Hail, Holy Queen

(Salve Regina)

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy,
hail, our life, our sweetness, and our hope.
To you do we cry,
poor banished children of Eve.
To you do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.
Turn then, most gracious Advocate,
your eyes of mercy toward us.
And after this our exile
show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb,
Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Prayer of Consecration to Mary

O my Queen and Mother,
I give myself entirely to you.
To show my devotion to you
I consecrate to you this day
my eyes, ears, mouth, heart,
and whole being without reserve.
Therefore, good Mother,
since I am your own,
keep me and guard me
as your property and possession.



MARY AND THE CHURCH YEAR—From the moment of His Birth Mary was united with her Son in His redemptive work. As we celebrate the annual liturgical cycle of Christ's Mysteries, we honor Mary with special love, and on her feasts we pray to her with particular devotion.

PRAYERS FOR THE LITURGICAL SEASONS

Each year, the Church helps us to meditate on the totality of the Christian Mystery through the medium of the Liturgical Year. She also desires that our prayer-life should proceed in accord with the major themes of that year. Hence, prayers to Mary could follow a pattern such as the following.

During Advent, we pray with the Immaculate Virgin in expectation of the coming of her Son.

During Christmas Time, we venerate Mary as the Mother of Christ and the servant of the Lord.

During Lent, we hail Mary as the collaborator with God and the witness of Christ's Passion.

During Easter Time, we see Mary as the first among the redeemed, the first believer, and the witness of the power of the Spirit,

During Ordinary Time, Mary is always before us in our growth in faith—in the Ordinary of the Mass but also in her feasts that occur throughout this time. She is there as the Mother showing continual interest in her children (Our Lady of Lourdes, Feb. 11), as