

FOUR DOGMAS ON MARY

A dogma is a truth revealed by God, which the magisterium (the teaching office) of the Church declared as binding. The faithful are required to accept with the divine and Catholic faith everything the church presents either as solemn decision or as general teaching. Not all teachings are dogma. The faithful are only required to accept those teachings as dogma if the church clearly and specifically identifies them as infallible dogmas.



MOTHER OF GOD

Mary is truly the Mother of God because she is the Mother of Jesus (John 2:1, John 19:25). The One who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and became truly her Son is actually the eternal Son of God the Father. He is God himself. Jesus is both true God and true man.



PERPETUAL VIRGINITY

The Incarnation of Jesus did not spoil the virginity of Mary. Jesus was conceived solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary; the virginal conception of Jesus is a divine work that surpasses all human understanding. God preserved her virginity before, during and after the birth of Christ. She remained a virgin for life.

Mary is a virgin because her virginity is *the sign of her faith* "unadulterated by any doubt", and of her undivided gift of herself to God's will. It is her faith that enables her to become the mother of the Savior: "Mary is more blessed because she embraces faith in Christ than because she conceives the flesh of Christ."

When the Gospels speak of the "brothers and sisters of Jesus", they are talking about the close relations of Jesus; there was no word for cousin.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

In Mary, God prepared a dwelling place for the Incarnation of Jesus.

Thanks to the grace of God and in anticipation of the merits of Jesus Christ, Mary was preserved from original sin from the first instant of her conception. Mary "was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to her role." The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as "full of grace".



ASSUMPTION, BODY & SOUL

Mary, being immaculate, ever-virgin Mother of God, after finishing the course of her life on earth, was taken up body and soul to heaven. Free from the stain of original sin, her body was not subject to decay.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin is a singular participation in her Son's Resurrection and an anticipation of the resurrection of other Christians.