



A Portrait of Mary, Part 2: Model of Faith A WebSearch

The Question to Explore: *How does Mary model faith?*

Overview: This WebSearch guides you to reflect on Mary, Mother of Jesus, as a model of faith. It takes you to several valuable Internet resources that will provide the basis for your reflection, using an article, art, and Scripture. With this process, this WebSearch will also offer a few tips on how to examine an Internet resource and tell if it is reliable. It will conclude with suggestions for next steps in a further exploration of the theme.

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Time Commitment: This learning experience will not require more than 1 hour.

Task: In this learning experience, you will

- Recall and reflect on your own experience of Mary
- Read one brief article in which the author discusses Mary
- Locate Scripture references on the Internet
- Use the article and images to answer key reflection questions
- Decide on the next steps to explore this theme further

Process:

1. *Reflect on Your Experience*

- a. When you think of Mary, what stands out for you? Include in your description feelings, attitudes, memories, and/or image(s) that come to mind. How does Mary model a person of faith for you?

2. *Read and reflect on the article, "[Mary: A Model for All Ages](#)" by Gloria Hutchinson*

- a. Check for reliability. How do you know this article is reliable? (*Tip 1: Look at the publishing house and publication which has published her writing. Get to know publishers and publications and keep a list of ones you find dependable.*)

(Tip 2: Note under the picture of the article it states that each issue carried an imprimatur. An imprimatur means the material in the article conforms to Church teaching. Not every article or book will necessarily have an imprimatur, but when you see it, you can rely on the content. Now you know that the archive list of Catholic Updates has material that conforms to Church teaching.)

- b. Choose one of the four ways in which Hutchinson defines Mary as a model of faith: model of interiority, prayerfulness, trust, and hope. Then locate: a) the work of art Hutchinson describes to support her presentation and b) the Scripture to which Hutchinson refers.

(Hint: There are various translations of the Bible, and different translations are appropriate for different purposes. For example, someone might choose one translation for study, another for prayer, and another for teaching children. A version that is translated from the original languages is most reliable for study. The Roman Catholic Church uses the New American translation with Revised New Testament. The Biblical passages below are from this New American Bible. If you are using a different Bible, compare the passage with the one online and see if they are very different in words or tone.

- **A Model of Interiority:** “The Annunciation” by Fra Filippo Lippi
(Hint: There are various paintings by Fra Filippo Lippi named “The Annunciation.” Two are listed below. Which one best communicates interiority to you?)
<http://www.artunframed.com/images/artmis48/lippi8.jpg>
<http://www.artunframed.com/images/artmis48/lippi9.jpg>
The Annunciation: [Luke 1:26-38](#)
- **A Model of Prayerfulness:** Our Lady of Guadalupe, self-portrait, at The Basilica of Guadalupe, Mexico City
http://www.sancta.org/cgi/display.nor?image=imagen_pic_300w.jpg and
http://www.sancta.org/cgi/display.nor?image=rostrom_400.jpg
Mary’s Magnificat: [Luke 1: 46-55](#)
Jesus’ Mission: [Luke 4:16-21](#)
- **A Model of Trust:** “The Finding of the Savior in the Temple” by William Holman Hunt <http://www.abcgallery.com/H/huntwh/huntwh7.html>
Jesus in the Temple: [Luke 2:41-52](#)
Flight into Egypt: [Matthew 2:13-16](#)
- **A Model of Hope:** “Lakota Annunciation,” icon by Father John Giuliani
<http://www.bridgebuilding.com/narr/glan.html>
God’s Promise: [Luke 1:30-33](#)
Mary at Pentecost: [Acts 1:14](#) & [Acts 2:1-4](#)

- c. Spend some time in quiet space, reflecting on the work of art. Let your eyes roam freely over it. Then consider the following questions as you reflect:
- What do you notice? What is your eye drawn to? What do you tend to overlook? What do you notice about the colors? Where are there areas of light or shadow? Is anything or any person missing? Pause, and then summarize briefly.
 - What is the overall mood or feeling this art projects?
 - Is there an association or memory that this image ignites or brings into focus? Describe this.
 - After looking carefully at this for a time, now what captures your attention? Stay with that....What feeling does this “staying” evoke in you?
- Briefly summarize your reflection.***
- d. Read the Scripture that accompanies the section you chose in the Hutchinson article. Then read it again.
- What stands out for you in this story or passage?
 - What does this say about Mary?
 - What does this say about God?
- Briefly summarize your responses.***
- e. Re-read the section of the Hutchinson article that pertains to the work of art and Scripture you reflected on.
- After viewing the art yourself and reading the corresponding Scripture, how does this depiction of Mary model faith for you?
 - How does your reflection support what Hutchinson offers to describe Mary as model of interiority, prayerfulness, trust, or hope? How is it different?
- f. **Think back on the Mary you described in question 1.** Does your description reflect any of the attributes of faith Hutchinson identifies? Does it add others? *[Note: If you repeat this reflection using the other Scripture and image suggestions, you can enrich and expand this answer.]*

Review the Tips for Evaluating a Web Resource

What have you learned about judging an Internet source as reliable?

- ***Know which translation of the Bible you are using. Compare a passage from the Bible you are using and the New American Bible***
- ***Get to know publishers and keep a list of the ones which are reliable.***
- ***Know what an imprimatur means.***

Next Steps

- Locate the images and Scripture Hutchinson writes about that you have not already reflected on in question 2. Then complete the reflection process according to the instructions.
- Complete the C21 Online WebSearch, A Portrait of Mary, Part 1: Miriam of Nazareth available at <http://www.bc.edu/c21online>.
- Study Scripture with C21 Online. Sign up for a two-week online workshop (with guided discussion) on The Gospel of Luke or The Gospel of Matthew, or learn about the Synoptic Gospels in the 6-week online course Encountering Mark, Matthew and Luke: The Synoptic Gospels. For more information and special group rates, go to www.bc.edu/c21online.
- Hutchinson refers to two documents from the Second Vatican Council, *Lumen Gentium* or *The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church in the Modern World* and *Marialis Cultus* or *Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary*. The Vatican Archives web site has the original documents available on the Internet. To read more about Mary from Church documents, go to these links.
 - For [*Lumen Gentium*](#), see Chapter VIII, paragraphs 52-69, especially paragraph 53:
 - For [*Marialis Cultus*](#), see especially Section Two, paragraph 35, and Conclusion, paragraph 56:
- Learn more about Mary using Internet resources:
 - Explore Mary through art at [The Mary Gallery](#) .
 - Read more about Mary at [The Mary Page](#) of the International Marian Research Institute at the University of Dayton.
- Read Virgilio Elizondo's "[Our Lady of Guadalupe: A Guide for the New Millennium](#)." How does Elizondo's description of Our Lady of Guadalupe differ from that of Hutchinson? What word would you now use to describe Our Lady of Guadalupe as a model for faith?
- To learn more about different translations of the Bible, read '[A Brief Description of Popular Bible Translations](#).'