

The Assumed Role of Mary in the Early Church

By Melkisedeck Leon Shine · August 5, 2023

All you need to Know About Virgin Mary Mother of God Jesus Christ, By Melkisedeck Leon Shine

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? Introduction ?

In the early years of the Church, the role of Mary, the Mother of God, was not only highly regarded but also widely celebrated. As a devout Christian Roman Catholic, it brings me great joy to delve into the intriguing topic of Mary's assumed role during this significant period. Let us explore the fascinating aspects surrounding the beloved Mother of Jesus and her influence on the early Church.

1 Mary, the Ever-Virgin ?

From a Christian perspective, it is crucial to acknowledge that the doctrine of Mary's perpetual virginity is deeply rooted in the early Church. It is believed that Mary remained a virgin before, during, and after the birth of Jesus Christ. This belief is based on biblical evidence, such as the Gospel of Matthew 1:25, which states, "But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus."

2 Mary, Mother of God ?

One of the most significant roles Mary assumed in the early Church was that of the "Theotokos," meaning "Mother of God." This title emphasizes the belief that Mary gave birth to Jesus, who is both fully human and fully divine. This concept is supported by the Gospel of Luke 1:43, where Elizabeth proclaims, "But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"

3 Mary, the New Eve ?

In addition to being the Mother of God, Mary is often referred to as the New Eve in early Christian theology. Just as Eve played a critical role in the fall of humanity, Mary, through her obedience and humility, played an instrumental part in the redemption of mankind. This parallel is beautifully depicted in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (494), which states, "She is 'the new Eve,' the true mother of all the living."

4 Mary, the Ark of the New Covenant ?

Another fascinating aspect of Mary's assumed role in the early Church is her association with the Ark of the Covenant. In the Old Testament, the Ark contained the tablets of the Ten Commandments, symbolizing God's presence among His people. Similarly, Mary, as the bearer of Jesus, came to be seen as the new Ark, carrying within her womb the Word of God made flesh. This connection is beautifully illustrated in the book of Revelation 11:19, where John sees "the ark of his covenant" in the heavenly sanctuary.

5 Mary, the Intercessor ?

Mary's intercessory role in the early Church cannot be overlooked. As a loving

mother, she is believed to intercede on behalf of all believers, presenting their prayers to her Son, Jesus Christ. This belief is supported by the Gospel of John 2:3-5, where Mary intercedes at the Wedding at Cana, saying, "They have no more wine." This act of intercession led to Jesus' first miracle, highlighting her powerful role.

6 Mary, a Model of Faith and Humility ?

Mary's exemplary faith and humility have served as a model for Christians throughout history. Her "yes" to God's plan of salvation, as seen in Luke 1:38, where she says, "I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled," teaches us the importance of surrendering to God's will with trust and obedience. Her unwavering faith encourages us to emulate her virtues in our own lives.

7 Mary, the Queen of Heaven ?

The early Church also recognized Mary as the Queen of Heaven, acknowledging her exalted position as the Mother of God. This title finds its roots in the book of Revelation 12:1, where John sees "a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and a crown of twelve stars on her head." This depiction symbolizes Mary's role as the queenly mother of the Church.

8 Mary, A Relationship with the Saints ?

Mary's close relationship with the saints in the early Church is a testament to her esteemed role. Just as we can turn to our friends and family for intercessory prayers, we can also seek the intercession of Mary and the saints, who stand before the throne of God. This understanding is beautifully expressed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (2683), which states, "Because of their communion with the saints, the Church is inseparably linked to the heavenly liturgy."

9 Mary, An Inspiration to Artists ?

Throughout the history of art, Mary has been a beloved subject of countless masterpieces. Painters, sculptors, and musicians have drawn inspiration from her beauty, grace, and purity. These artistic representations have not only captured Mary's physical appearance but also aimed to convey her spiritual significance to the early Church as the Mother of God.

? Mary, A Source of Hope and Comfort ?

Mary's assumed role in the early Church also included being a source of hope and comfort for believers. Just as a mother consoles her children, Mary offers solace to those who approach her with their sorrows and joys. Her compassionate nature is reflected in her appearance to St. Juan Diego in Guadalupe, Mexico, where she shared a message of love and healing to bring peace to a troubled world.

? Opinion ?

As we reflect on the assumed role of Mary in the early Church, it is evident that her influence was profound and multifaceted. From her perpetual virginity to her intercessory role and her embodiment of faith and humility, Mary is a cherished figure in Christian Roman Catholic spirituality. Through her example, she continues to inspire countless believers to deepen their relationship with Jesus and strive for holiness.

What are your thoughts on Mary's assumed role in the early Church? How has her devotion impacted your spiritual journey? Let us celebrate the blessedness of the Mother of God and honor her role in our faith. ???

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