

Looking Ahead

In this chapter, the Holy Spirit invites you to ►



EXPLORE how Mary demonstrates the virtue of humility.



DISCOVER that God the Son has reconciled us with God.



DECIDE on how you can commit to living with humility.

CHAPTER

5

Son of God, Son of Mary

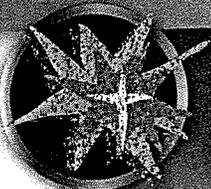
? When someone asks you to do something, how do you respond?

Let us listen to what Saint Luke tells us about Mary's response to the angel's message to her.

"The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. . . ." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

LUKE 1:35, 38

? Why do you think that Mary responded yes to God? What is the name that the Church gives to this event of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary?



Disciple Power

Humility

Humility helps us see and accept the truth about God and ourselves. A humble person acknowledges that God is the source of life and author of all that is good. Humility is often described as poverty in spirit when the humble person completely trusts in God.

THE CHURCH FOLLOWS JESUS

Mary, the First and Model Disciple

Imagine the teenage Mary's surprise and confusion when God invited her to be the Mother of his Son. Mary did not understand why God had chosen her. She was a virgin and asked, "How can that be?" Yet, she responded, "May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).

Full of humility at what God was asking from her, Mary set out to visit her relative Elizabeth, who was also pregnant. It was not an easy journey from Nazareth to the home of Elizabeth. When Mary arrived, she was perhaps once again surprised when the much older Elizabeth greeted her,

"Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. . . . Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." LUKE 1:42, 45

Mary responded to Elizabeth with great faith. Mary proclaimed,

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. . . . The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name." LUKE 1:46-47, 49

Mary told Elizabeth that all blessings come from God. She realized that her being "blessed" in the eyes of Elizabeth and future believers was not of her own doing. Hers was the response of a true and faithful Israelite, one who knew her part in the Covenant that God made with Abraham and Moses, "God alone is God" (read Psalm 62:2). Mary's humble "yes" models for us what it means to be a true disciple of her Son, Jesus. She is the model for the whole Church of how to follow Jesus.



Activity

Reflecting on Mary's faith and humility, write a short prayer of praise to God for how he has blessed you this week.

Jesus the Christ

God the Father chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the Mother of his Son. She is the handmaid of the Lord, who was a virgin her whole life.

The Incarnation

The Virgin Mary conceived Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is the Son of God. Jesus is the Second Person of the Trinity, who took on flesh and became fully human in all things except sin. This great event is called the **Incarnation**. Thus the Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus, is truly the Theotokos, the Mother of God. The Greek word *Theotokos* means "God-bearer."

In the opening passages of the Gospel of John, we read,

And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

JOHN 1:14

God has revealed to us through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition that his only begotten Son assumed our human nature while remaining fully God.

The early Church called Jesus the New Adam. The Incarnation was the beginning of the new creation, the beginning of restoring God's plan of creation. The Word of God became a man so that we could be redeemed and share in the divine life. In him, God's plan of Salvation and Redemption came true.

Because Jesus was fully human, he experienced joy and sadness, peace and suffering. He thought with a human mind, acted with a human will, worked with human hands, and loved with a human heart. Jesus is a divine Person with both a human and divine nature. This is a great mystery of faith.

FAITH FOCUS

What is the meaning of the Incarnation?

FAITH VOCABULARY

Christ

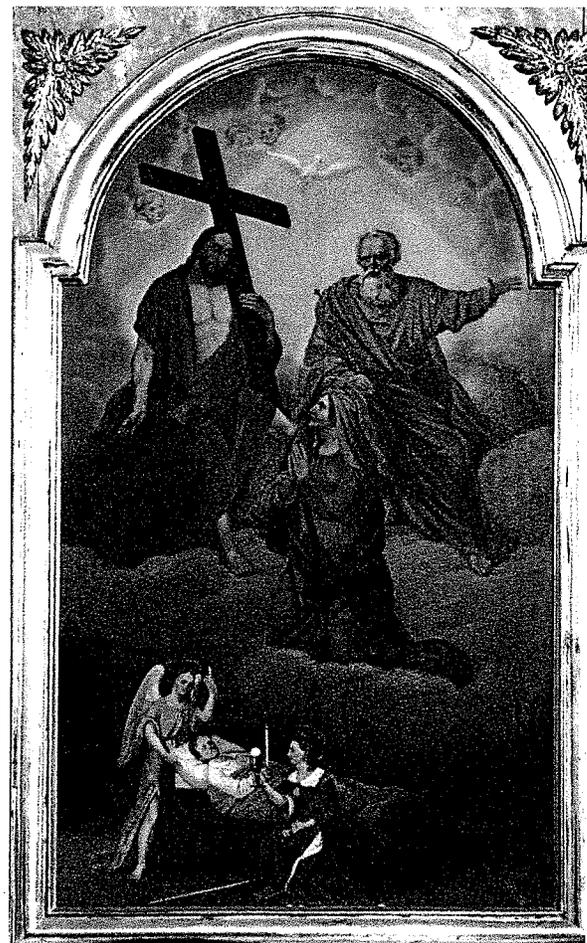
This title of Jesus identifies him as the Messiah, the Anointed One, whom God sent to save all of humanity.

Incarnation

The Incarnation is the belief of the Church that the Son of God became fully human in all ways except sin, while remaining fully divine.

Lord

This title of Jesus indicates his divine sovereignty, or power.

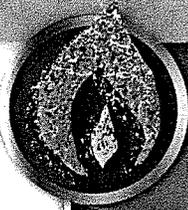


Activity

Read the following Scripture passages. Tell a partner whether each passage reminds you more of the human or divine nature of Jesus.

John 1:1-5

John 11:32-36



Faith-Filled People

Saint Lawrence

Lawrence, deacon and martyr, served the Church during the persecution under Emperor Valerian (AD 257-260). Lawrence had the responsibility to care for the "treasures" of the Church. He was ordered to bring these treasures to his sentencing for execution. Lawrence arrived accompanied by a large number of blind, sick, and poor people. He declared, "Here are the treasures of the Church."

In His Name

While Jesus lived on Earth and did the work his Father sent him to do, not everyone came to believe he was **Christ**, the Savior and Messiah. Some people were confused and hesitant to believe. Others were hostile. On one occasion, when Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" only Peter the Apostle spoke out and confessed his faith in Jesus. Simon Peter said in reply,

"You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

MATTHEW 16:16

Like Peter, we too, led by the Holy Spirit, confess our faith in Jesus. We believe in the faith as handed down to us by the Apostles:

Jesus is Lord. In Sacred Scripture, the word *Lord* is used for God. Jesus is the Son of the living God. He is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity and is intimately one with the Father in the Holy Spirit (read John 12:44-45; 1 Corinthians 12:3).

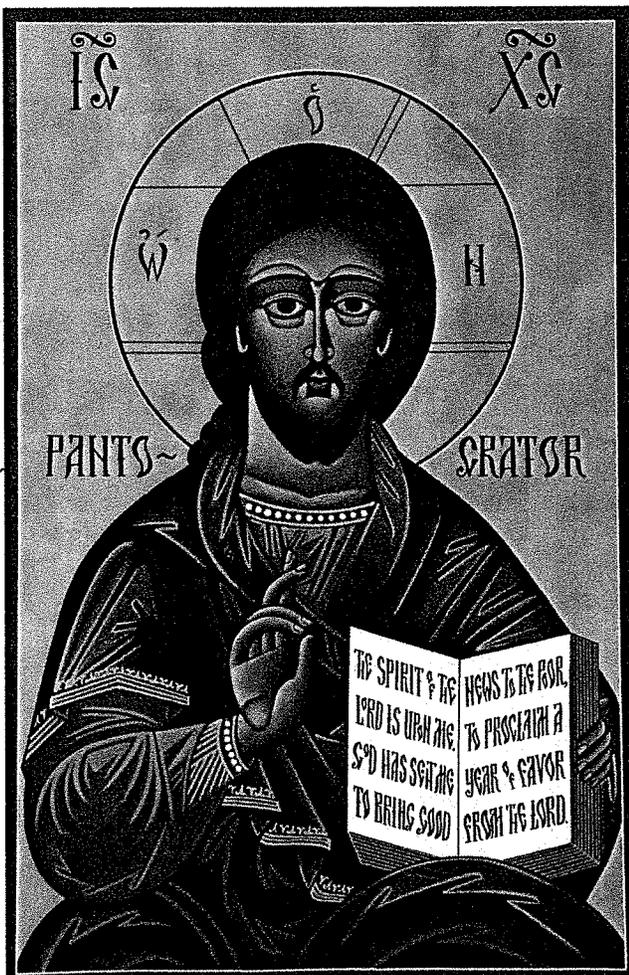
Jesus is true God and true man. The Son of God became true man without giving up his divinity. The Son of God became like us in all things but sin. We call this the mystery of the Incarnation (read John 1:14).

Jesus is the One whom God promised to send to deliver his people and to lead them to live the Covenant faithfully. The name of Jesus means "God saves." Jesus is the Messiah and Savior. The title Messiah, or Christ, means "Anointed One."

Jesus Christ is the one and only Mediator, or "go-between," who links God and the human family. He alone reconciles the human family with God (read 1 Timothy 2:5-6; Hebrews 9:15-28).

Being a Christian is not only knowing and believing that Jesus is Lord, the Son of God, the Savior of the world, but also living as his faithful disciples, as Saint Lawrence did.

? Who do you say Jesus is?



The Mysteries of Salvation

Mary is the first disciple of Jesus. She is the first and greatest saint of the Church. Mary always points us to Christ. We can look to Mary to teach us and help us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. Mary gazed on the human face of her son, Jesus, and saw God. She kept in her heart the beautiful mystery of her son, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. We are to honor Mary as our mother too, and our hearts are to be like hers.

The Church has given us the Rosary to help us join with Mary and always keep our lives centered on Jesus. There are twenty mysteries of the Rosary. The word "mysteries" points to the mystery of Salvation. There are five Joyful Mysteries, five Sorrowful Mysteries, five Luminous Mysteries, and five Glorious Mysteries. Here is a list of the Joyful Mysteries:

1. The Annunciation (see Luke 1:26-38)
2. The Visitation (see Luke 1:39-49)
3. The Nativity (see Luke 2:1-14)
4. The Presentation In the Temple (see Luke 2:22-38)
5. The Finding of the Child Jesus After Three Days in the Temple (see Luke 2:41-52)

Because of Mary's unique role in God's plan of Salvation, at the end of her earthly life, she was taken up, body and soul, into Heaven. The Church encourages us to pray the Rosary in her honor. It is one way we can bless and honor God with Mary. The Church celebrates October as the month of the Holy Rosary.

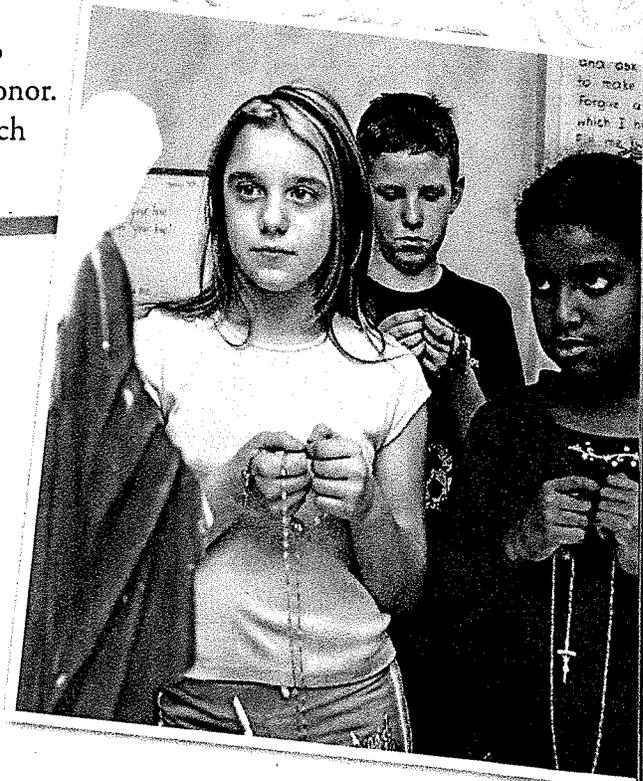
Activity Design a poster encouraging classmates to participate in the month of the Holy Rosary. Include events and reasons that will motivate students to take part.

Catholics Believe



The Rosary

The Church honors Mary as Our Lady of the Rosary each year on October 7. Praying the twenty mysteries of the Rosary helps us to reflect on the main events, or mysteries, of Salvation. This kind of meditative prayer helps put us in touch with the heart of our faith in Christ.



I FOLLOW JESUS

Mary teaches us how to be humble disciples of Jesus. She is the Virgin Mother of Jesus. Because Jesus is the Son of God, Mary is the Mother of God.

THE STORY OF MARY

Review what you learned about Mary in this chapter. Use the Gospel stories and mysteries of the Rosary to assist you in writing a story about Mary. Give your story a title and illustrate it.

MY FAITH CHOICE

Having reflected on Mary's humility, I will try to be humble this week. I will



Pray, "Heavenly Father, I praise you for giving me this opportunity to act with a humble heart. Amen."

Chapter Review

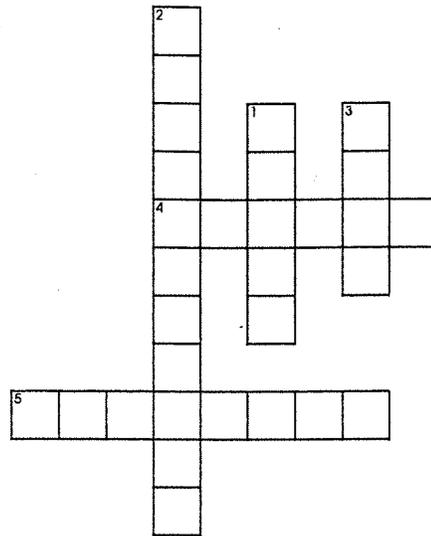
Complete the crossword puzzle.

Down

1. The Son of God, the Messiah and Savior
2. The belief that the Son of God became man
3. The Mother of Jesus, the Mother of God

Across

4. The prayerful meditation on events in the lives of Jesus and Mary
5. The virtue related to poverty in spirit



▶ TO HELP YOU REMEMBER

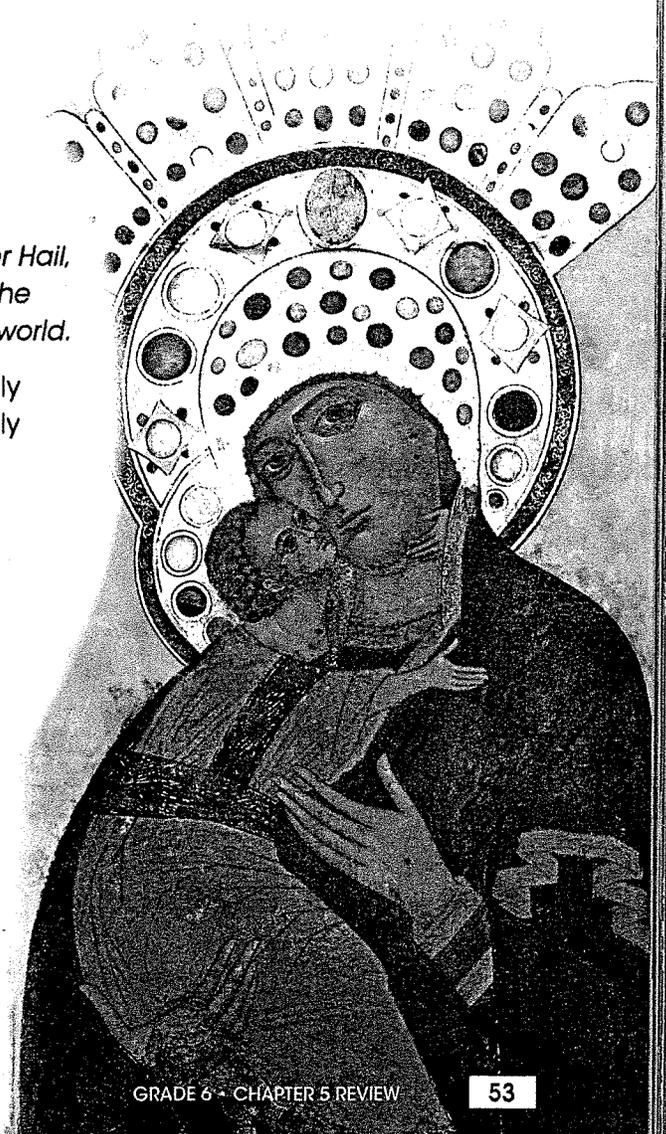
1. God the Father chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the Mother of his Son.
2. Jesus is the Second Person of the Trinity, who is the Messiah, Christ, or "Anointed One." He is true God and true man.
3. The Rosary is a prayer in which we reflect on the mysteries of Salvation.

Hail, Holy Queen

We conclude the praying of the Rosary by praying the prayer Hail, Holy Queen. Catholics have been praying this prayer since the 1100s. Originally written in Latin, it is now prayed around the world.

Here is the Hail, Holy Queen in Polish. You will find the Hail, Holy Queen in English on page 262 of your book. Pray the Hail, Holy Queen together in the language you know.

*Witaj Królowo, Matko Miłosierdzia,
życie, stodoły i nadziejo nasza, witaj!
Do Ciebie wołamy
wygnańcy, synowie Ewy,
do Ciebie wzdychamy jęcząc i płacząc
na tym też padole.
Przeto, Orędowniczko nasza,
one miłosierne oczy Twoje na nas zwróć,
a Jezusa, błogostawiony owoc żywota Twojego,
po tym wygnaniu nam okaż.
O łaskawa, o litościwa, o słodka Panno Maryjo!*



With My Family

This Week ...

In Chapter 5, Son of God, Son of Mary, your child learned:

- ▶ God the Father chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the Mother of Jesus, the Son of God, who became one of us without giving up being God.
- ▶ In Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Son of Mary, God's promise and plan of Salvation are fulfilled.
- ▶ In praying the Rosary, we can honor Mary and meditate on the life of Christ.
- ▶ Mary is the first and model disciple of her son. She demonstrates the virtue of humility in her words and deeds, acknowledging that all her blessings are from God.

For more about related teachings of the Church, see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 422-570, and the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, pages 77-87.

Sharing God's Word

Read Hebrews 2:8-18 together. Emphasize that Jesus is Lord yet became human even unto death. In Christ, we are adopted children of God. Christ has reconciled us with God, who promises us eternal life if we live according to the Gospel.

We Live as Disciples

The Christian home and family is a school of discipleship. Choose one of the following activities to do as a family, or design a similar activity of your own:

- ▶ Talk about some of the choices your family has made. How are these choices signs of your faith in Jesus Christ? Reflect on your celebration of the Christmas season. Decide as a family what Christian choices you can make amid the popular consumerism of the season.

- ▶ Humility can be a difficult virtue for sixth graders, who are trying to maintain independence and autonomy. Discuss practical ways your family can live this virtue. Remind your child that humility is not a sign of weakness but of a strong faith and relationship with God.
- ▶ Pray the Rosary as a family at home, especially on a feast of Mary, making sure each family member has his or her own rosary. Also participate in a family Rosary at your parish, if and when it is prayed.

Our Spiritual Journey

Praying the Rosary helps us see how Mary always points us to Jesus. In this chapter, your child prayed part of the Rosary. Read and pray together the prayer on page 53.

Faith-Filled People

Saint Lawrence

Feast Day: August 10

Lawrence treated the blind, ill, and poor as the true treasures of the Church.



For more ideas on ways your family can live as disciples of Jesus, visit

BeMyDisciples.com

Being True to God's Call

We always will be learning about ourselves, about our lives, and about God's plans for us. God calls us to come to know ourselves honestly and humbly. We are called to grow in that understanding and to share the goodness of ourselves with others. God calls each of us to know and accept our unique purpose, or vocation, in life. Every day God gives us the grace to know our vocations and live them.

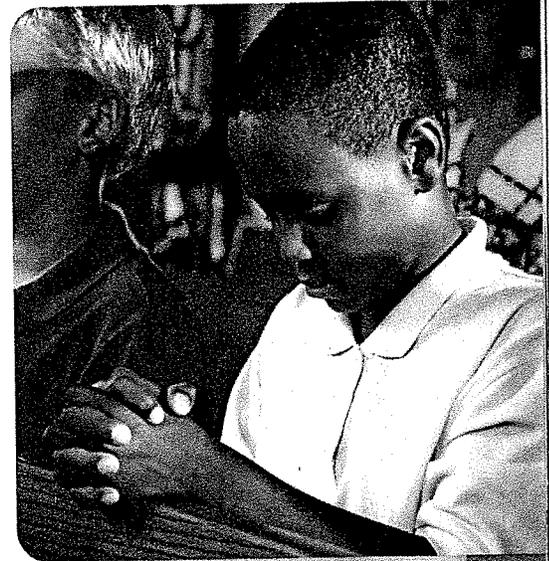
God desires that we seek him and all that is true, beautiful, and good. This means facing life with integrity, or being true to the people God created us to be. While we might face difficulties and challenges in life, we will have the strength, with God's grace, to deal with life's joys and sorrows. Saint Paul teaches that God does not give us more than we can handle (read 1 Corinthians 10:13).

God calls and invites each of us to accept who we are. As we mature, we discern more clearly God's plans for us. In the process of learning who God has called us to be, above all, we need to seek his help. God's help, or his grace, comes to us through the Church. The sacraments, Sacred Scripture, and prayer are sources of God's grace. The wisdom and teachings of the Church guide us in knowing, loving, and serving God. We can better know ourselves by knowing God and living according to his will.

Catholics Believe



The virtue of humility strengthens us to be honest with ourselves, to accept the people God created us to be, and to love and serve the Lord. A truly "humble" person is a person of integrity.



Activity

Conduct a family brainstorm to resolve a family concern or issue. Write down the ideas of each of the family members, then create an action plan together.

Our Family Concern

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Our Family Action Plan

--



Faith Focus

God calls us to be people of humility and integrity.



Healthy Habits @ Home

As a family, identify short-term and long-term goals for the family. Build these goals on the talents and traits of your family.

Short-Term Goals

Who Is Responsible?

Long-Term Goals

Who Is Responsible?

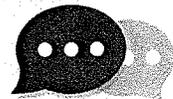


Safer Together

Children are safer when they are able to recognize when others are not treating them appropriately. The following two laws affect child development:

- **The law of exposure** says that we think about what we see and hear.
- **The law of cognition** says that what we think about affects our actions and behavior.

As our children develop personal goals, we can help them incorporate positive attitudes into their goals. This helps children set high standards regarding how they wish to be treated. By setting high standards, children recognize when others are not treating them appropriately.



Family Time

Cut out and hang at home

Have family members respond to and share ideas about each of these questions:

- Which past experiences have taught you about yourself?
- How have you dealt with past failures?
- Who has helped you in achieving your goals?



Family in Action

With your family, read about the tools that can help us discover the people God calls us to be.

- Self-awareness.** We take time to think about who we are, how we feel about things, and what we have done.
- Honesty.** We have to be brave enough to acknowledge everything about ourselves. This means we admit our faults and mistakes *and* we recognize our talents and abilities.
- Advice.** Family and friends can teach us how to avoid some mistakes or to keep trying when we want to give up.
- Perspective.** This allows us to ask ourselves, "Why do I do the things I do?" Gradually we can observe our own lives more objectively, and this helps us to understand who we are.

