

## Mary's Role in the Interior Life

Devotion to Mary is to live in imitation of Jesus, as a little child in relationship with Mary his mother. By following this path we will be made like Him under her influence and care.

At the time of the Annunciation, Jesus entrusted himself entirely to Mary as a little child in her care.

**John Paul II:** Before anyone else it was God himself, the Eternal Father, who entrusted himself to the Virgin of Nazareth, giving her his own Son in the mystery of the Incarnation. (RM 39)

Mary cooperated with the Holy Spirit in the birth and development, education and formation of Jesus - With the Holy Spirit, Mary formed Jesus

Crucifixion – John 19:25-27 – Mary becomes Our Mother

- John represents all disciples of Jesus
- At the Cross Jesus entrusts John to Mary
- John took her for his own mother (his spiritual mother)

At the Cross Jesus entrusted all of humanity to Mary in the person of John

- He extended the maternal role of Mary to all people
- Mary is our Mother in the Order of Grace

What does Mary do for us as our Mother?

- With the Holy Spirit Mary forms us in the likeness of Jesus.

Mary does this in two key ways:

1. Interceding on our behalf with God
2. Disposing us through her prayer to know and to do God's will that we may become like Jesus

The Wedding of Cana is the best example of her maternal influence

### What should we do?

The Church recommends that we:

1. Entrust ourselves to Mary as Jesus did in the Incarnation
2. Live in union with Mary as a little child with his mother
3. Sit at the school of Mary each day in the Rosary

### JPII Rosarium 15

The Rosary mystically transports us to Mary's side as she is busy watching over the human growth of Christ in the home of Nazareth. This enables her to train us and to mold us with the same care, until Christ is "fully formed" in us (cf. *Ga/4:19*)