

# Mary, the Model Catechist



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We do not usually speak of Mary, the Mother of God as a catechist. And we do not commonly think of her as an example for those who catechize. But the Blessed Virgin is not only a pattern; she is the perfect model of what every catechist in the Catholic Church should be. (Cf. CCC 2030)

Before I go more deeply into our subject it may be well to ask ourselves, “What is a catechist?” A catechist is one who instructs others in the one true faith. Notice we say instructs others. This means teaching them by enlightening the mind, in order to inspire the will in the one true faith. There are many faiths. Every religion demands faith of its followers. But there is only one faith that contains the fullness of the truth. This is the faith of the Roman Catholic Church, founded by Jesus Christ.

We say that Our Blessed Mother is the perfect model of what every Catholic catechist (and since Vatican II said that parents are the first educators of their children, by all means are you catechists too!) should be. In saying this, we affirm what may not be obvious: that Our Lady was a catechist. She instructed others in the one true faith. And she did this so admirably that we may legitimately call her the Mother of Catechists.

This brings us to the fundamental question we should ask. How is the Blessed Virgin the perfect catechist? How can we, who are trying to instruct others in the Catholic religion, learn from her? The answer is simple. What were the main qualities of the Blessed Virgin that, as Catechists, we should try to imitate? Then by following the example of Mary, we shall become more like her, who was the perfect communicator of the revelation of her divine Son.

We may identify these qualities as mainly the following:

- Mary’s clear and unquestioning faith,
- Mary’s union in prayer with the Heart of her Son,
- Mary’s plain and courageous living out of the will of God in her life.

Given these qualities in the Blessed Virgin, we have the bedrock of Mary’s qualifications as model of catechists. Why? Because the essence of catechesis is not in what is said, but in what is communicated. In order to communicate the truth a person must have a clear faith, a deep union with God in prayer, and a courageous living in conformity with the will of God. *cont’d next month with the “Faith of Our Blessed Mother.”*