

APOLOGETICS MADE EASY

Deacon Tim Sullivan

Mary

As described so dramatically in Revelations 12, Mary has a prominent role in God's plan of salvation. Catholics do not worship Mary. However, we do venerate her for her special relationship with the Trinity and for the intercession she provides for us. Even Martin Luther said about Mary, "The veneration of Mary is inscribed in the very depths of the human heart."

All Christians would agree that we are to be as much like Jesus as possible. Did not Jesus have a deep, special love for His mother? Then so should we.

The "Hail Mary" prayer consists of passages from the Gospel of Luke followed by a request that Mary pray for us. Who better to go to for intercessory prayer than the mother of Jesus? He listened to her and honored her wishes at the wedding feast of Cana. No doubt He is still doing so.

The Bible tells us that, if we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we will understand the important role of Mary and welcome her into our spiritual lives. In Luke 1:41, when Mary goes to help her cousin, Elizabeth, who is also pregnant, Elizabeth, "**filled with the Holy Spirit**, cried out in a loud voice, 'Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does it happen to me, that the Mother of my Lord should come to me?'"

Like Elizabeth, we will all be richly blessed and eternally grateful if the Mother of our Lord should come to us and lead us into a deeper relationship with her Son.