

Study Lesson Number: 13

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - The Beginning of Redemption:

When the fullness of time had come, God prepared to send His Son into the world as the Redeemer. He had already planned the kind of Mother He wanted for His Son, so He created her soul and united it to her body in the womb of her mother, St. Ann. But Mary's soul, unlike all other souls which had come into this world after Adam and Eve, had no original sin on it. It was IMMACULATE (Mary Immaculate - - - THE SINLESS ONE IN A SINFUL RACE.)

God looked into the future and saw the day on which His Son would die on the Cross. He accepted in advance the Precious Blood of His Son as the price of Mary's redemption. He used the Precious Blood to redeem her ahead of time by preserving her from ALL sin. This privilege which God granted to Mary of being conceived and born without original sin is called her IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

Preparing for Warfare against the Devil.

As a result of her Immaculate Conception, Mary came into this world FULL OF GRACE and was NEVER under Satan's power. She was the only one (except for Christ) whose soul was ALWAYS turned perfectly TOWARD God's will. Her Immaculate HEART WAS ALWAYS FULL of perfect love for Him. She was completely the devil's enemy and prepared for the warfare with him which was to result in his complete defeat. By her surrender to God's will, she was ready to reverse the defeat mankind had suffered through Eve's refusal of God's Will. Because of her love of God she became the Mother of Christ and joined Him in the battle with the devil.

Discussion questions:

1. Is it easier for us to commit sin that it was for Adam?  
If yes - why?
2. List the various harms which came to us as a result of the sin of Adam and Eve.
3. What is Original Sin and why do we call it Original?
4. Who do many statues of Our Lady have a snake at the base?
5. Death came into the world as a result of original sin.

Bible Readings:

God as Creator - - Gen. 1 and 2  
Proverbs 8

The Fall - - Gen 3  
Rom. 5-12/19; 7-13/25.

CONCERNING THE HOLY EUCHARIST:

The Eucharist can also release man from the punishment due to sin. It is both a sacrament and a sacrifice. As a sacrament, it unites a man to Christ through charity. But it is by the fervor of charity that a man obtains the forgiveness of the punishment due to his sins. The degree of fervor will determine the amount of punishment which is forgiven. As a sacrifice, the Eucharist can also forgive the penalty of sin. In itself, the Eucharist is powerful enough to forgive all the penalty for all the sins of all men. But, in matters of satisfaction the disposition of men must be taken into account. The Eucharistic sacrifice will remit their punishment according to the measure of their devotion.