

RCIA Pre-Catechumenate Lesson Plan

Topic: Mary

Date: Ninth RCIA Meeting

Goals of the Presentation



Audience:

Those seeking to enter the fullness of the Catholic Faith through the parish RCIA process.

What audience should know by the end of meeting:

“What the Catholic faith believes about Mary is based on what it believes about Christ, and what it teaches about Mary illumines in turn its faith in Christ” (CCC 487)

What part of presentation is meant to inspire deeper conversion?

The magnitude of Mary’s *fiat* will be presented as a means to inspire all to have the same readiness for God and his plan for our lives. “Let it be done me according to your will.”

What materials do I need?

Meeting Room should be well organized.

A prominent sacred space visible in the front of the room, with candles, a crucifix, an Icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Word of God.

Each table with different sacred art depicting Mary accompanied by quotes from the Saints, Popes, and Scripture.

Beautiful framed or laminated copies of the Magnificat and Fiat of Mary to give to everyone to take home: “*Let it be done to me according to your word.*” (Luke 1:38) Encourage participants to put these somewhere meaningful in the home.

The Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Night Prayer of the Church

Paper, note cards, highlighters, and pens/pencils

Covering the basics

How is Revelation given primacy?

“The Father of mercies willed that the Incarnation should be preceded by assent on the part of the predestined mother, so that just as woman had a share in the coming of death, so also should a woman contribute to the coming of life.” (Lumen Gentium 56; cf. LG 61; CCC 488)

How is the presentation rooted in the foundational truths?

The Catholic Church’s teachings on Mary are directly related to the person of Christ. Primarily these teachings are rooted in the Trinity, the Incarnation, and the Paschal Mystery of Christ.

What scripture must be used:

Gn 3:15

Gal 4:4

Lk 1: 26-38

Lk 11:27-28

Rev12:1-6a

Lk 2:19

Jn 19: 25-27

How is the topic seen throughout Salvation History?

Throughout salvation history one can see that the mission of many holy woman prepared for that of Mary. Mary is seen throughout salvation history in such woman as Eve, Hannah, Deborah, Ruth, Judith and Esther. “Mary stands out among the poor and humble of the Lord, who confidently hope for and receive salvation from him. After a long period of waiting the times are fulfilled in her, the exalted Daughter of Zion, and the new plan of salvation is established” (CCC 489).

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

CCC 484-507 & 964-971

How will this presentation give your audience a thirst for more?

The aim of the presentation should encourage the participant to have a deeper appreciation for Mary in the everyday life of faith. By coming to a clear understanding of Mary one should be led to a deeper love of Christ and the generosity of God.

Putting It Together

Preparation:

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The session opens with a welcome and prayer. Pray together the evening pray of the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Proclamation:

“Your birth O Virgin Mother of God, proclaims joy to the world, for from you arose the glorious Sun of Justice, Christ our Lord” (Liturgy of the Hours).

Explanation:

I – Mary’s role in the Economy of Salvation

A) “What the Catholic faith believes about Mary is based on what it believes about Christ, and what it teaches about Mary illumines in turn its faith in Christ” (CCC 487)

B) Understanding Mary’s unique privileges of Grace in relationship to her Son

II – Old Testament prefigurments (These two prefigurments are sufficient to lay the ground work for the Marian Doctrines of the Church)

- A) Eve and Mary as the New Eve (Use Ireneaus’s quote from CCC 494)
- B) Ark of Covenant and Mary as the Ark of the Covenant

III – Mary, and the reality of Prevenient Grace (Mary was necessary for the Incarnation). In a real way God depended on man to freely choose his plan. He provided Mary with the “fullness of grace”, that is the highest quality of divine grace that one can receive from the saving work of Christ beforehand. Mary responding to this grace acted freely, conforming her will to God’s to help bring about the “fullness of time” (Gal 4:4). Her participation in salvation is unique and elevated.

- A) OT Patriarchs and Prophets
- B) St. John the Baptist in the womb of Elizabeth
- C) The Immaculate Conception
- D) Mary’s Fiat



IV – The Marian Doctrines of the Church (“Mary’s role in the Church is inseparable from her union with Christ and flows directly from it” - CCC 964).

Briefly cover each doctrine and show this principle in light of the work Christ accomplished.

- A) Immaculate Conception
- B) Mother of God (Theotokos)
- C) Perpetual Virginity
- D) Assumption
- E) Mediatrix of Grace
- F) Mother of the Church (Mother to man by the order of grace) (Jn 19:25-27)
- G) *(if time one could briefly highlight that the majority of Protestant reformers held to most and some all of the major Marian doctrines). The loss of these among the Protestant movement today, shows the necessity and importance of staying united to the Church Christ founded.)*

V – Marian Devotion

- A) Make the distinction between the Church’s devotion to Mary and what is due to true adoration of the Trinity. Strengthen this by showing examples of the Liturgical expression of the Church through the centuries (East and West). Devotion to Mary has always been part of the Church.
- B) Reinforce that Devotion to Mary is rooted in the Church’s understanding of her unique and elevated role in the economy of salvation, as well as our understanding that by God’s grace she still actively plays a role in the ongoing life of the Church. She forever points to Christ, leads to Christ, and encourages the Church to “do whatever he tells you to do” (Jn 2:5).
- C) Highlight a couple popular devotions (Rosary, Scapular, Miraculous Medal, Liturgical)

Application:

Application on this night is to take and field Question and Answers. For many becoming full members of the Church understanding Mary takes some time. Also allow questions on any other topic that has been covered. Let this time be meaningful, and allow the questions to develop into organic conversation on the truth.

Celebration:

A brief period of silence will begin the prayer on this night, followed by asking if there are any intentions to be prayed for, and lastly by praying the Night Prayer of the Church together.

(CF members have access to any power point, handouts, and detailed explanation points regarding this topic.)

