

The Woman: Take-Home 12

Session 12: All Generations

What We Found

The vocabulary that answers the kitchen-table question: latria (adoration, owed to God alone), dulia (veneration of his holy ones), hyperdulia (the highest veneration, for Mary alone, different in kind from worship). The decisive test is sacrifice: in twenty centuries the Church has never offered the Mass or any sacrifice to Mary; the Eucharist is offered to God, sometimes in her honor, never to her.

Scripture's own honor grammar: the God who forbade idols commanded the Ark's cherubim (Exodus 25:18–20); Israel bowed to the LORD and the king in one verse (1 Chronicles 29:20); Hezekiah destroyed the commanded bronze serpent the moment incense burned to it (2 Kings 18:4): keep the images, smash the idolatry. Asking the saints to pray is asking, not adoring: heaven refuses worship (Revelation 22:8–9) and carries the prayers of the saints (Revelation 5:8) on the same pages, all under the one Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5). And the Rosary is Scripture on a string: Gabriel's words, Elizabeth's words, the Church's petition, and twenty mysteries of Christ's life, most drawn straight from the Gospel narratives, all centered on him; Jesus himself repeated the same prayer in Gethsemane (Matthew 26:44), so repetition is not vain when the heart is engaged.

We ended where we began, with new ears: 'henceforth all generations will call me blessed' (Luke 1:48). Scripture predicts the veneration this study grounded. The question the Magnificat leaves with each of us: will ours be one of the generations?

Voices of the Church

VOICE OF THE CHURCH: ST. AUGUSTINE

Augustine teaches, in substance, that the Church offers sacrifice to no martyr and no saint but to God alone, even at the martyrs' shrines: the priest never says 'I offer to you, Peter,' but thanks God for Peter's victory.

Against Faustus, Book 20 (summary)

VOICE OF THE CHURCH: THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL

"This very special devotion... differs essentially from the adoration which is given to the incarnate Word and equally to the Father and the Holy Spirit, and greatly fosters this adoration."

Lumen Gentium 66, as cited in CCC 971

VOICE OF THE CHURCH: ST. LOUIS DE MONTFORT

St. Louis teaches, in substance, that true devotion never terminates in Mary: she is the surest and shortest way to Jesus, and the second half of 'to Jesus through Mary' governs the first.

True Devotion to Mary (summary)

Live It This Week

- Teach your chosen typology to your named person within thirty days; tell someone from the group how it went.
- Pray the full Rosary once this week, reading each mystery's Gospel text before its decade.

- Keep your chosen Marian practice (a daily decade, the Angelus, the evening Salve) for ordinary time, and write a thank-you to God at Luke 1:48 in your Bible.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

"for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name."

Luke 1:48–49 (RSV2CE)

A closing word: The study is complete. 'My soul magnifies the Lord' (Luke 1:46).

Catechism references: CCC 971; 2678–2679; 2708