

Viri Christi



“From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence,
and men of violence take it by force.”

Matthew 11:12

Objective: *Ad Jesum per Mariam!* This Latin phrase which means, “To Jesus, Through Mary” is a perfect summary of our theme this month. October is the month of Mary, so we are going to explore what the Church teaches about our Blessed Mother. Though it may seem counterintuitive for a men’s group to look to a woman as the perfect model of following Christ, you will discover the Blessed Virgin Mary is the perfect person to lead us to Christ. In fact, she wants nothing more than to point us to her beloved Son.

Podcast Schedule

- Episode #5 – Mary, Mother of God
- Episode #6 – Mary, Immaculately Conceived
- Episode #7 – Mary, Perpetual Virgin
- Episode #8 – Mary, Assumed into Heaven

October Meeting: Mary, Our Blessed Mother

I. Episode #5 – Mary, Mother of God

1. Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange – “This is the most important Marian dogma because everything we believe about the Blessed Virgin flows from this great truth. “The divine maternity is . . . the foundation, source, and root of all Mary’s graces and privileges” (*Mother of the Saviour*, 24).
2. The Council of Ephesus (431): “If any one does not confess that the Emmanuel (Christ) in truth is God and that on this account the Holy Virgin is the Mother of God since according to the flesh she brought forth the Word of God made flesh, let him be anathema” (DH 252).
3. Hail Mary, Full of Grace
 - a. What is grace? “Sanctifying grace makes us participate in the very nature, in the inner life of God” (Garrigou-Lagrange, 27).
 - b. 2 Peter 1:14 – St. Peter says that God helps us to “escape from the corruption that is in the world . . . and become partakers of the divine nature.”

II. Episode #6 – Mary, Immaculately Conceived

1. *Ineffabilis Deus* by Pope Pius IX (Dec. 8, 1854) – The Most Blessed Virgin Mary, at the first instant of her conception, by the singular grace and privilege of Almighty God and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved immune from all stain of original sin” (DH 2803).
2. Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange – “When the Blessed Virgin Mary was conceived in St. Anne’s womb, she was granted all three gifts. She possessed the natural gift like all men, but she also was conceived with the fullness of sanctifying grace. Moreover, she was given infused knowledge and integrity. Also, she was preserved from suffering and death as punishments of Original Sin, “even though both Jesus and Mary knew suffering and death in so far as they are consequences of our nature and endured them for our salvation” (*Mother of the Saviour*, 33-34).

III. Episode #7 – Mary, Perpetual Virgin

1. “Mary was a Virgin before, during, and after the Birth of Jesus Christ” (Ott, 220).
2. Mary, Mother of All Men – Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange explains, “Tradition has always understood the words in that sense; they do not refer to a grace peculiar to St. John alone, but go beyond him to all who are to be regenerated by the Cross . . . Mary continues to exercise her mother functions in our regard by watching over us so that we grow in charity and persevere in it, by interceding for us and by distributing to us all the graces we receive” (155-156).

IV. Episode #8 – Mary, Assumed into Heaven

1. Introduction: Did the Blessed Virgin Mary die? Ludwig Ott – “For Mary, death, in consequence of her freedom from original sin and from personal sin, was not a consequence of punishment of sin (cf. DH 1973). However, it seems fitting that Mary’s body, which was by nature mortal, should be, *in conformity with that of her Divine Son*, subject to the general law of death” (225).
2. Mary is Our Model
 - a. St. Francis de Sales – “The Blessed Virgin, Mother of God, died of love for her Son . . . It is impossible to conceive of her death as having been anything except a death of love, which is the most noble of all deaths and a fitting crown of the most noble of all lives.”
 - b. Matthew 16: 24 – “Jesus told his disciples, “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”
3. The Bodily Assumption of Mary into Heaven: Pope Pius XII (1946) – “We pronounce, declare, and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma: that the immaculate Mother of God, the ever-Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into glory” (DH 3903).
4. The Queenship of Mary: Ludwig Ott – “After being assumed into Heaven and being raised above all angels and saints, Mary reigns with Christ, her Divine Son. . . . Mary’s right to reign as Queen of Heaven is a consequence of her *Divine Motherhood* . . . [and] on her *intrinsic connection with Christ in His work of Redemption*” (emphasis his, 228).

VI. November Monthly Challenge: Genuflect with the Eyes, Mind, Heart, and Body