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Subject: **Virgin Mary Star of the Sea article**

Greetings Anthony,

I have been pondering the article you wrote April 17th. I came across it while looking for information on the title of Mary as Star of the Sea. It has so distressed me, I hardly know where to begin. In returning to your site, I couldn't help but notice the article you wrote about your marriage and the difficulties you have been encountering in your mixed marriage (yourself Protestant & your wife R.C.), in addition to the attacks you have felt yourself to be under by our enemy.

I pray you won't be offended by the correspondence of one who also is a fellow believer and slave of our Lord Jesus Christ. However, there are so many things that are mistaken in your understanding of Mary, I feel compelled to offer some gentle remonstrance, in the hope that you may be guided by the Holy Spirit and Jesus Himself in a better understanding of who she who is: neither idol nor pagan goddess, but the Mother of God and the Mother of all humanity, as appointed by Jesus Himself at the foot of the cross.

If you subscribe to the Protestant doctrine of Sola Scriptura "by scripture alone" there is plenty of evidence to show that Mary is an important figure in the Bible. (It would be well to stick to the Bible, also, rather than reading about ancient pagan "deities.") How many humans can say that they are "highly favored" by God? Mary could. In the King James Luke 1:30-31, the angel Gabriel, God's messenger tells her so. She also is pre-figured in Genesis as the woman who will correct the error of Eve 3:15. In

the Douay-Rheims translation it is even more explicit than the King James, saying "I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed: she shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in wait for her heel." Also Genesis 3:15 This translation was released in 1609. Notice how many times in the Bible when Jesus addresses Mary, he calls her "Woman" - it is to highlight and correlate that she is the woman in Genesis, and the woman in Revelation. "And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon was under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars (*representing both the 12 tribes of Israel & the 12 apostles - my note*) ...and another sign was seen in heaven, and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his heads seven diadems...and the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bring forth, that when she had brought forth he might devour her son. And she brought forth a male child, who is to rule all nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to his throne." Revelations 12:1..3..prtl 4-5 "And when the dragon saw that he was cast down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had brought forth the male child. And there were given to the woman the two wings of the great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness unto her place...And the dragon was angered at the woman, and went away to wage war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God, and hold fast the testimony of Jesus." Revelations 12:13-14...17

Jesus uses the same word to address Mary from the cross. "When Jesus, therefore, saw his mother and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he said to his mother, Woman, behold, thy son. Then he said to the disciple, Behold, thy mother." In this passage, Jesus is indicating that Mary is to become the spiritual mother of all humanity. If you re-read the Revelations passage above, 12:17, it states **the dragon was angered at the woman**, clearly meant to

be Mary who has given birth to Jesus, the Salvation of the world, and **went away to wage war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God, and hold fast to the testimony of Jesus.** That would be us, Christians. Christians keep the commandments of God, and hold fast to the testimony of Jesus. Mary is the favored one of God, deemed worthy to be a vessel for the Son of God, who said Yes and gave herself totally to the will of God, and reversed the No of Eve in order to bring salvation to humanity, and the Bible is referring to her as **our mother. Her offspring,** who keep the commandments of God. Not only that, she is the new Ark of the Covenant, the holy of holies. What else could her womb be, where the Man-God dwelt for nine months prior to birth? It is not possible for these passages to be translated any other way and retain sense.

Mary was also the first and best disciple. She always knew her son was the son of God, and was always faithful to His will. This is highlighted in the scene of the wedding at Cana (*where Jesus also addresses her as "Woman" & has frequently been misinterpreted by Protestants to mean He held her in little esteem. But does it seem likely that Jesus would treat His own mother with a lack of respect? A human highly favored by God? That wouldn't be Christian for a human to do, and God doesn't break His own rules.*) where she tells the servants "Do whatever He tells you to do." (In the KJV, it reads "Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it.") Mary is not only telling those wedding servants to do what her son tells them to do. She is telling us how to be good Christians - Do whatever He tells you to do. She also shared his pain and sorrow on the way of the cross, and during his crucifixion. Only one disciple was present - the rest were frightened of the Jews and Romans and hid themselves away. Mary, his mother and faithful disciple was present for the horrendous sorrow of seeing her sinless Son, spit upon, jeered at, bleeding, beaten, carrying the

cross heavy with our sins to finally be killed before her eyes by nailing him to a tree. What mother could watch this without being pierced through her own heart? Mary is united to the suffering of Jesus by being present with Him, participating in His sufferings as only a devoted mother could, and united in His thirst to save human souls from the pit (Gehenna).

Given this, it is small wonder that the enemy of all human salvation, the father of lies, would desire to sever all knowledge and ties to Mary, the mediatrix to whom it has been promised to assist Jesus in finally crushing the enemy forever.

A great martyred saint of the 20th century, St. Maximilian Kolbe stated it this way, "Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin Mary too much. **You can never love her more than Jesus did.** If anyone does not wish to have Mary Immaculate for his mother, he will not have Christ for his brother."

You mentioned in your most recent article some of the travails you have experienced with your RC wife and how this has affected both of you and your children. You mentioned how you feel yourself to be under attack by our enemy. Perhaps it is time for you to re-examine what has been occurring in light of the words of a member of the Sanhedrin, when faced with the resurgence of Christ's teachings via Paul, Peter and the apostles, "**And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it: lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.**" Acts 5:38-39 KJV

This may be hard to hear, friend, but if your zeal for your vision of faith is putting enmity between you and your wife, and bringing sadness to your children, then it cannot be of God. For all that is

of God, brings peace, wholeness, harmony and love. I have given up my own rest in order to bring this to you. I leave you with an old prayer - judge for yourself if it seems out of place with Christian teaching:

AVE MARIS STELLA

Hail, bright star of ocean, God's own Mother blest, Ever sinless Virgin, Gate of heavenly rest.

Taking that sweet Ave, Which from Gabriel came, Peace confirm within us, Changing Eva's name.

Break the captives' fetters, Light on blindness pour, All our ills expelling, Every bliss implore.

Show thyself a Mother; May the Word Divine, Born for us thine Infant, Hear our prayers through thine.

Virgin all excelling, Mildest of the mild, Freed from guilt, preserve us, Pure and undefiled.

Keep our life all spotless, Make our way secure, Till we find in Jesus, Joy for evermore.

Through the highest heaven to the immortal Three; Father, Son, and Spirit, One same glory be. AMEN.

A possible book of interest for further scripture based examen of Mary is: Hail, Holy Queen: The Mother of God in the Word of God, by Scott Hahn (a former Protestant minister)

With love and peace in Christ, and all prayers for your salvation and that of your whole family, because no one gets to Heaven without a battle,

[Name withheld]