

HOPE IN MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

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Mary, Mother of Mercy



Immediately after the Fall, God establishes a covenant with man, and that was, in spite of man's disobedience, God promised a Savior through the woman in Genesis, the New Eve, Our Blessed Virgin Mary.

Pope Francis in the conclusion of his promulgation of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy states:

“Mary attests that the mercy of the Son of God knows no bounds and extends to everyone, without exception. Let us address her in the words of the ‘Salve Regina,’ a prayer ever ancient and ever new, so that she may never tire of turning her merciful eyes upon us, and make us worthy to contemplate the face of mercy, her Son Jesus.”



“Mary was a true daughter of the human race, born of and into the people of God. But on the other hand, it is also and simultaneously true that at the first instant of her conception, Mary was “preserved from the stain of original sin.”



Just as God who is full of mercy, Mary, by the fulness of God's grace in her soul, overflows with mercy and love. When we call upon her, seek refuge and beg for God's forgiveness, her 'eyes of mercy' gazes upon us. "Turn then most gracious advocate thine eyes of mercy toward us." We can trust her completely.



Mary is the fulfillment of the promise of God made to man after original sin: the promise of a woman whom God destined to be the mother of His Son. God fulfill his promise of salvation from the seed of the woman.

**NO SINNER NEED NEVER FEAR THAT MARY
WILL REJECT THEIR PLEA FOR GOD'S
MERCY. SAINT ALPHONSUS LIGOURI IN HIS
BOOK, "GLORIES OF MARY" STATED THIS
TRUTH BEAUTIFULLY: "MARY IS THAT
HAPPY ARK IN WHICH HE WHO TAKES
REFUGE WILL NEVER SUFFER THE
SHIPWRECK OF ETERNAL RUIN."**



Our life, our sweetness,
and our hope.

According to Saint Alphonsus Liguori, “in order to understand rightly the reason why the holy Church calls Mary our life, we must consider that as the soul gives life to the body, so divine grace gives life to the soul, for a SOUL WITHOUT GRACE, though nominally alive, in truth is dead.”



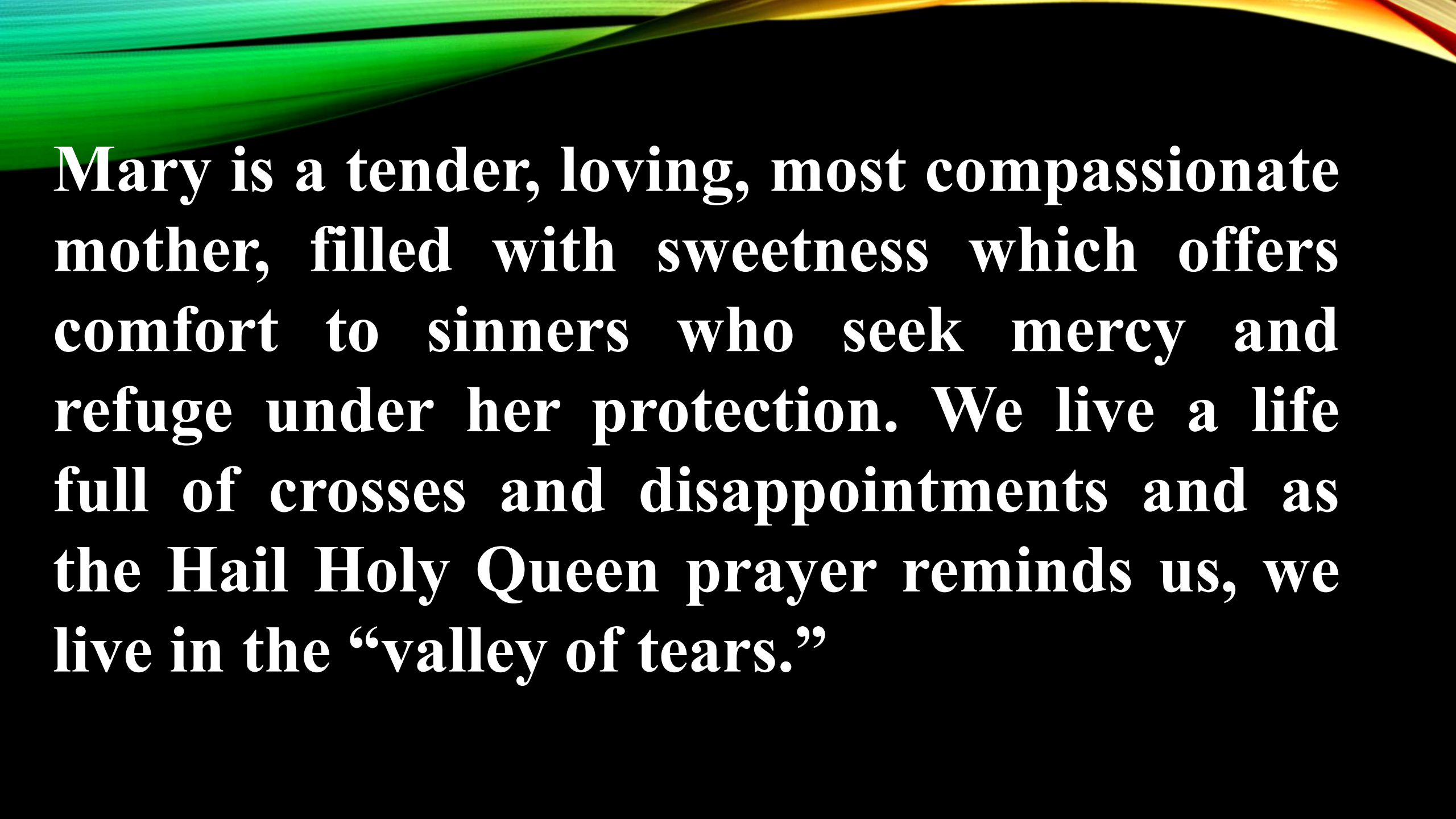
To find Mary and to have her in our lives is to find God's grace in our soul. The words of the Proverbs: "They that in the morning early watch for me, shall find me. They shall find me; they shall find grace." Therefore, to find Mary is to find life – a life of grace that leads to life eternal.



Mary is therefore, God's perfect creation; after the redeemer, she is the first in the order of the redeemed. And so, it can be said that Mary is the gift to the human race of the beginning of the new creation in Christ. She is both the "New Eve" and the "Mother of the Living."



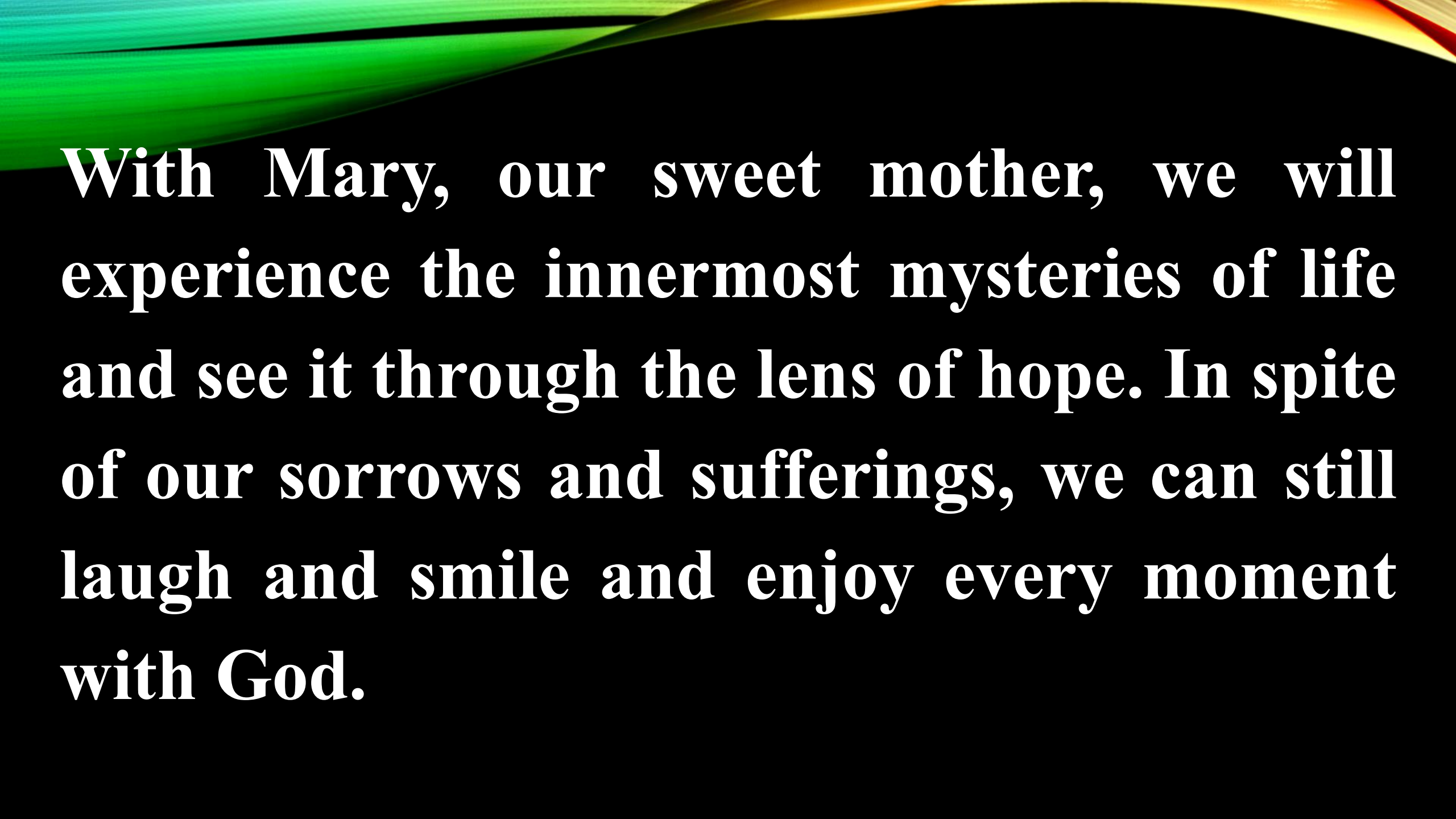
Mary, Our
Sweetness
(Dulcedo)



Mary is a tender, loving, most compassionate mother, filled with sweetness which offers comfort to sinners who seek mercy and refuge under her protection. We live a life full of crosses and disappointments and as the Hail Holy Queen prayer reminds us, we live in the “valley of tears.”

The concluding prayers of the Legion of Mary also expresses this human sentiment:

“A faith firm and immovable as a rock, through which we shall rest tranquil and steadfast amid the crosses, toils and disappointments of life.”



With Mary, our sweet mother, we will experience the innermost mysteries of life and see it through the lens of hope. In spite of our sorrows and sufferings, we can still laugh and smile and enjoy every moment with God.

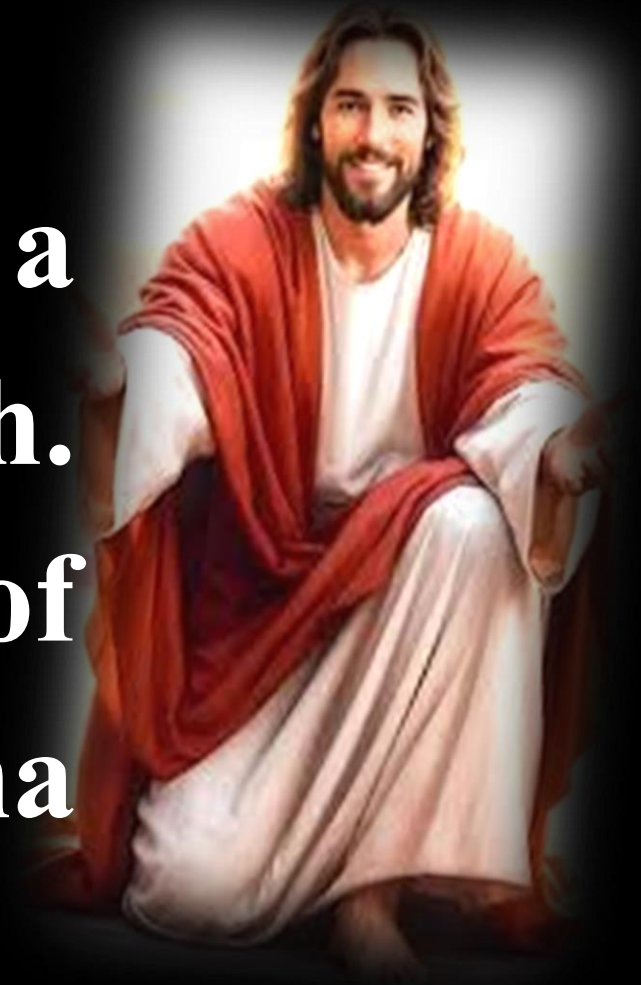
Sweetness and a Divine Sense of Humor

Venerable Bishop Fulton Sheen

...And so, sanctity is related to humor. That is why the saints laughed at themselves, knowing that this universe is only a stepping-off place to their eternal goal, and to take this world seriously is utter foolishness.”

The point is that ...

Sainthood should not be a
somber journey in our faith.
Sanctification should be one of
joy, filled with the sweet aroma
of love.

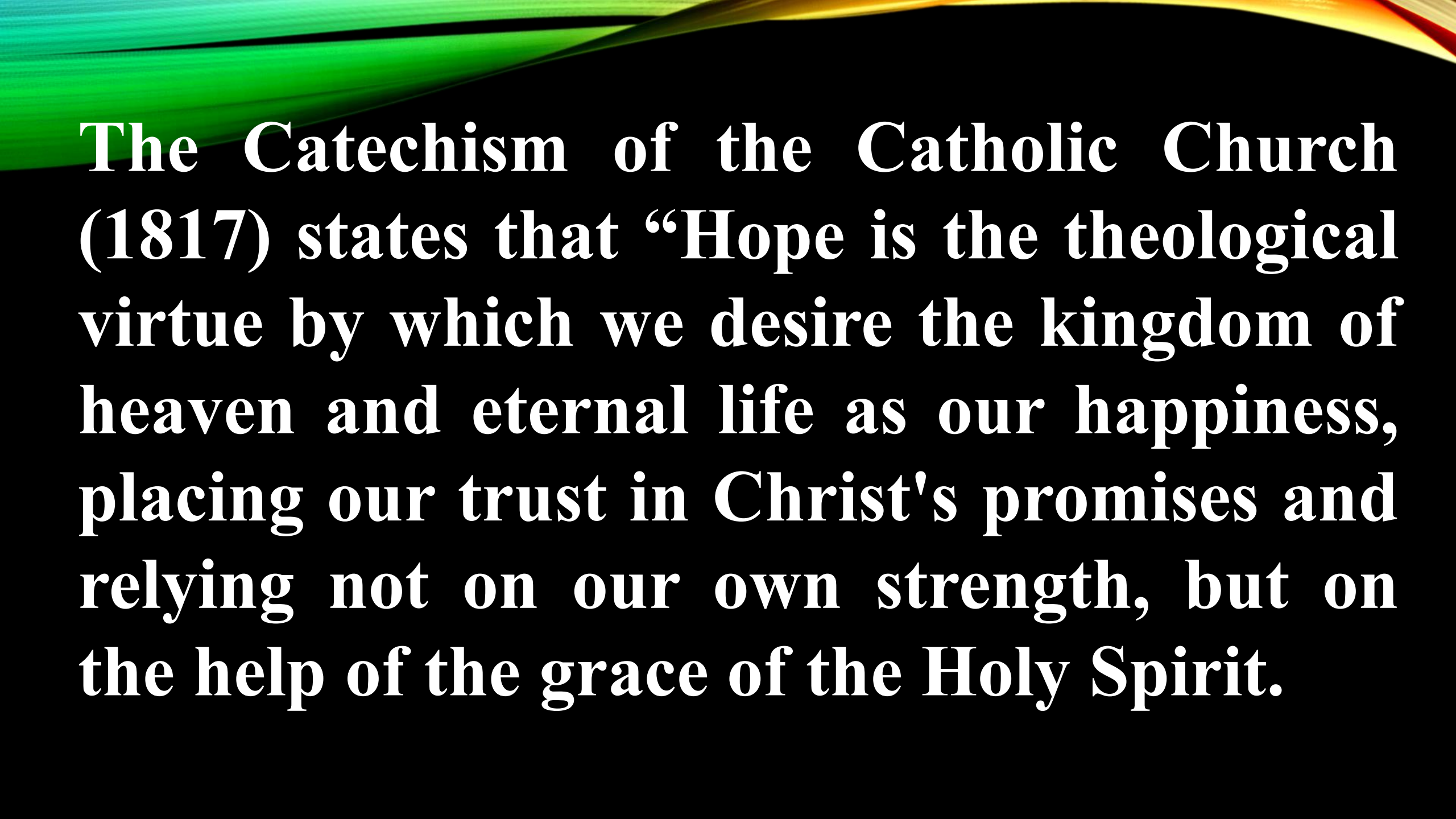


Thus, there is
profound joy in our
sufferings — “*it is in
dying that we are
born to eternal life.*”





MARY'S LIFE, PARTICULARLY HER
ROLE IN THE INCARNATION AND
HER PRESENCE AT THE FOOT OF
THE CROSS, IS SEEN AS A SYMBOL
OF HOPE AND REDEMPTION-SO, WE
CAN BELIEVE THAT MARY IS A GOD
GIVEN "SIGN OF SURE HOPE".

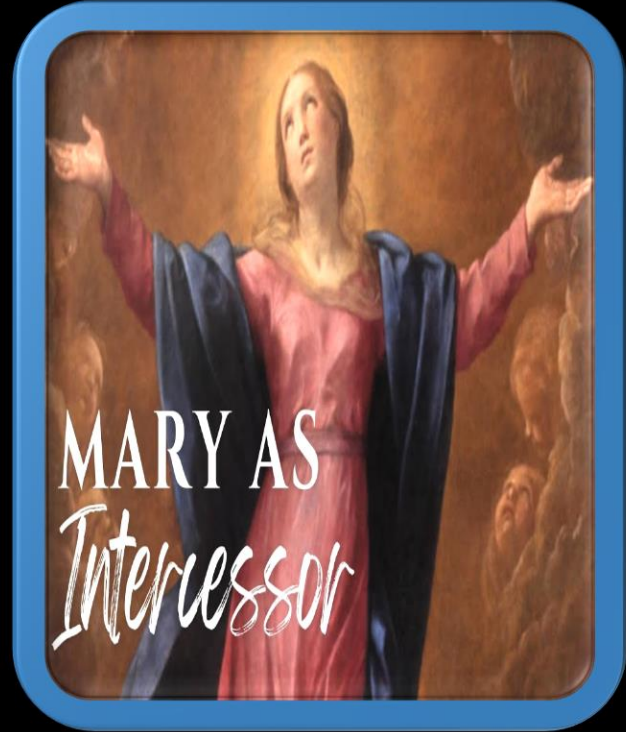


The Catechism of the Catholic Church (1817) states that “Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit.

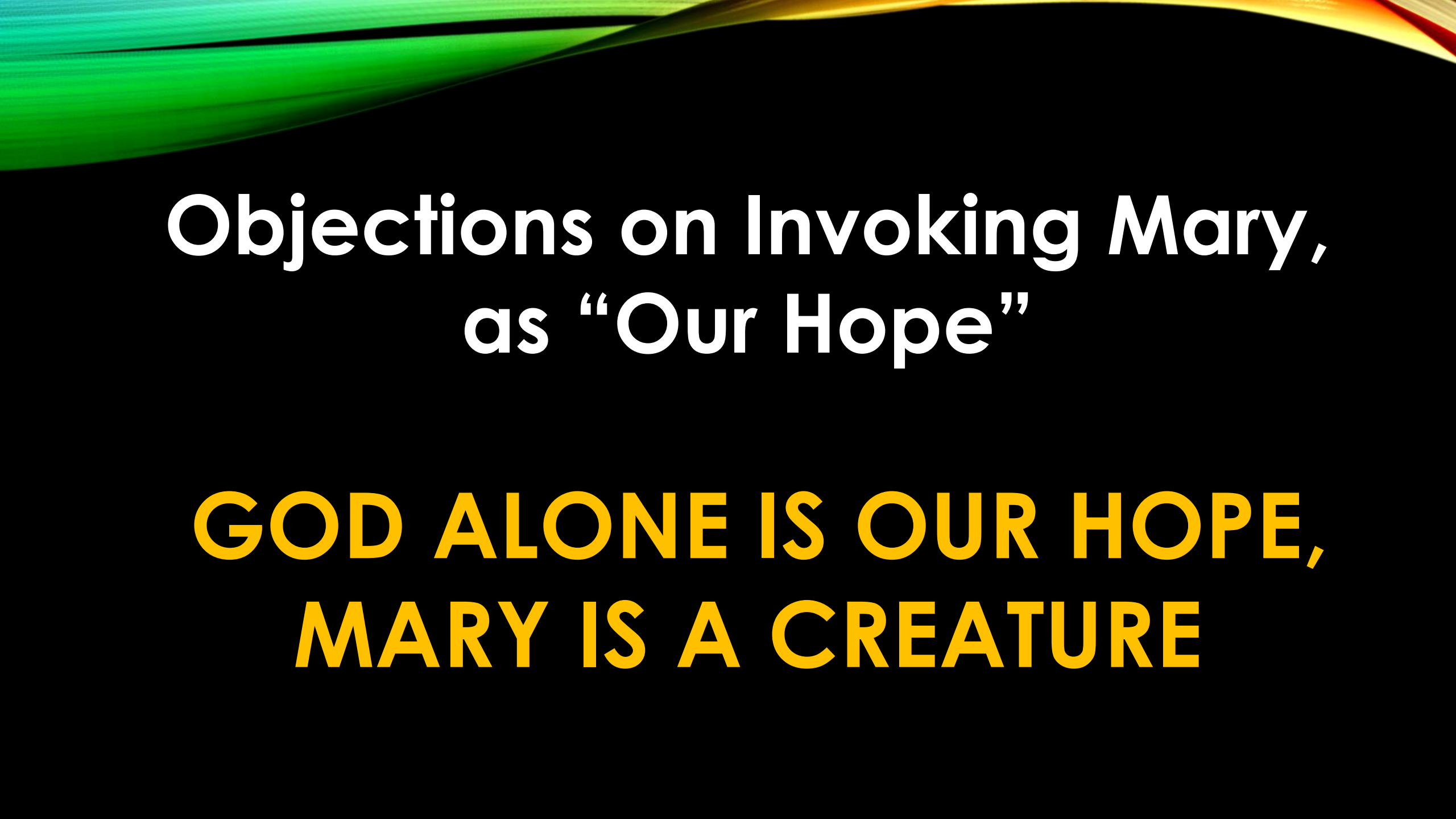


To hope in Mary, we must look at the *past* (she was announced prophesied in Genesis 2:15, announced by the Archangel Gabriel as the Mother of God)

We must look at the *present* (she is present in this world, at every Sacrifice of the Mass, in every Church and Basilica built in her honor, in the lives of her servants, in places where she had appeared, and in homes that have been consecrated to her Immaculate Heart, etc.)

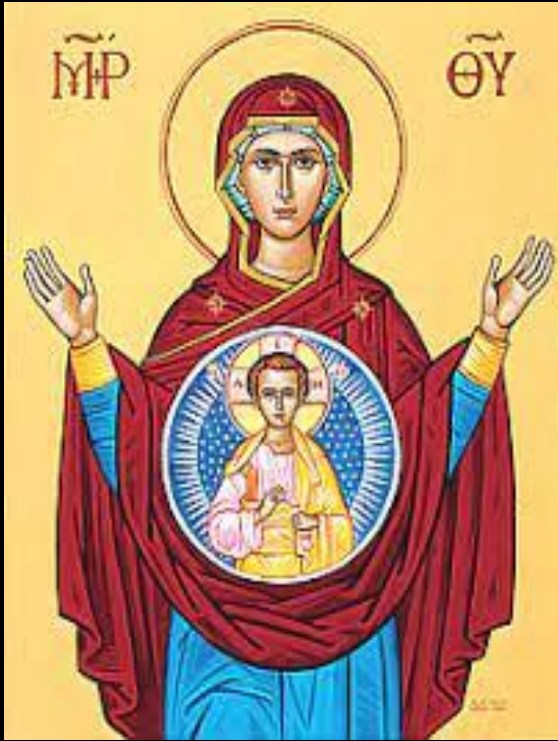


We must hope in the *future* (where she will be present at our particular judgment, to be our intercessor and advocate before God).



Objections on Invoking Mary, as “Our Hope”

**GOD ALONE IS OUR HOPE,
MARY IS A CREATURE**



Mary is no ‘ordinary creature’ – she was preserved from sin from the very beginning of her conception and throughout her entire life. She was made to be the singular vessel, the ark that which give life to the Son of Man.

MARY NOT HAVING KNOWN SIN, SHE IS ABLE TO HAVE COMPASSION ON EVERY KIND OF WEAKNESS. THIS IS INDEED A FASCINATING REVERSAL OF THE POPULAR IDEA THAT UNLESS A PERSON EXPERIENCES SOMETHING “HE” CANNOT “KNOW” IT. THIS IS THE KIND OF CHILD-LIKE CONFIDENCE WE HAVE IN MARY.

Frank Duff stated this so profoundly in the HB as follows: *“Studying her (Mary) therefore, the legionary will learn that the essence of true humility is the recognition and unaffected acknowledgement of what one really is before God.”* (HB p. 28) **Duff** asserts that the virtue of humility is the cause of our sanctification, and thus we must be imitators of our Blessed Mother.



And after this our
exile show unto us,
the Blessed fruit of
thy womb, Jesus.”



In the travail of that sorrow, offered in love, Mary became our Mother, the Mother of Hope.



O MARY
CONCEIVED
WITHOUT SIN,
PRAY FOR US WHO
HAVE RECOURSE
TO THEE.