

## The Life of Mary

by Paul Landolfi, SM

### Mary's Joy                      A Woman—MARY

who marries Joseph and begins to prepare for when they can live together  
who is committed to remaining a Virgin  
who hears God's Word and says YES to becoming Mother of God  
who is radiant because she is overshadowed by the Holy Spirit  
who is found with Child by the Holy Spirit  
who spends 9 months in close physical union with GOD  
who remains silent toward Joseph about this grace  
who may be considered and charged by the community as an adulteress  
who trusts that God will provide understanding for Joseph  
who hears amazing things about the Child to be born  
who hears also about Zachary and Elizabeth's grace of a child  
who is forgetful of herself and mindful of Elizabeth in this need  
who makes the hard, dangerous, and fatiguing trip through the hill country  
who is affirmed by Elizabeth for her faith  
who praises and thanks God with all her heart in the Magnificat  
who gives birth to Jesus, the Son of the Most High, and bonds with Him  
who wraps Him in swaddling clothes  
who lays the Child in a manger  
who believes this Child, so apparently ordinary, is the Saviour of the world  
who presents the Child to the shepherds  
who presents the Child to the Kings  
who presents the Child in the temple  
who is poor, offering turtledoves in sacrifice, not lambs,  
who wants only to obey the prescriptions of the Law  
who obeys the spirit not the letter of the Law  
who really collaborates with Joseph in raising the child  
who along with Joseph takes Jesus to the Temple when He is 12  
who finds Him dialoguing with the Teachers of the Law  
who is amazed that He has remained in the Temple  
who lives with Jesus and Joseph at Nazareth for many years  
who goes to the wedding of a relative with Jesus and His disciples  
whose faith at the wedding disposes the apostles to believe in Jesus

who follows the life, teaching, and miracles of Jesus very closely  
who is united with Him in everything she does, says, thinks

**Mary's Sorrow          A Woman—Mary**

whose life has been very hard  
who has abandoned herself to God in her dilemma about telling Joseph  
who is forced to leave home when she is almost ready to deliver her Child  
who finds Bethlehem overcrowded with no place for her to give birth  
who fears for the life of the Child because of Herod's jealousy  
who flees into Egypt at Joseph's word  
who mourns the death of so many innocent children  
who is a refugee in a foreign land  
who returns to Nazareth rather than Bethlehem in fear of Herod's son  
who is distressed when the Child is nowhere to be found at 12  
who grieves with Jesus at the death of Joseph  
who willingly says Goodbye to Jesus to send Him on His Mission  
who is saddened when she hears of the obstacles Jesus faces  
who shares His ignominy when the Nazarenes wish to force Jesus out  
who believes all the more as she finds others unbelieving  
who is probably present at the Last Supper  
who follows Him in the courtyard of Pilate  
who hears her Son condemned as a common criminal  
who shudders when she hears the crowd shout "Crucify Him"  
who walks with Him along the way to Calvary  
who would gladly take up His Cross when they force Simon to do so  
who cringes as they nail Him to the Cross  
who stands beneath the Cross loving Him to the end  
who unites her heart with His, desiring the salvation of all humanity  
who prays with Jesus, forgives with Jesus,  
who receives the beloved disciple as her own son  
who becomes the mother of all who believe in Jesus  
who keeps believing His promise to rise again even after He dies  
who holds the bruised Body of her Son close to her heart  
whose heart is also pierced when He dies  
who buries Jesus

who keeps the light of faith and hope alive when all seems lost;  
who awaits the Resurrection.

**Mary's Glory            A Woman - Mary**

who receives a visit from her Risen Son  
who does not boast of special graces  
who does not intrude on divine mysteries given to others  
who is probably in the upper room with the apostles when He appears  
who is filled with joy that He is alive  
who sees Jesus ascend into heaven  
who gathers with the apostles in the cenacle as Jesus told them  
who encourages and prays with His disciples for the coming of the Spirit  
whose faith and love hasten the coming of the Holy Spirit  
who receives the fullness of the Spirit—all His gifts and charisms  
who receives Jesus lovingly in the Eucharist  
who becomes the Mother and Heart of the Church  
who encourages the apostles as they witness to Jesus and suffer persecution  
who teaches them about Jesus  
who dies herself to be no different than her Son  
who is assumed body and soul into glory  
who now is at the right hand of her Son interceding for us  
who is the mother of the Good Shepherd  
who continues her motherly role toward us in heaven  
who is the mother of good counsel  
who is the dispensatrix of all the graces of her Son  
who is the prompt Help of Christians  
who is the Queen of Apostles  
who disposes us to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit  
who is crowned Queen of heaven and earth  
who has appeared to chosen ones to remind us of the Gospel message  
who asks us to pray, to fast, to be reconciled, to convert, to love one another.