



Plunging our Roots into Christ

“That you, rooted and grounded in love, may know the love of Christ that surpasses understanding.”
-Ephesians 3:17-19

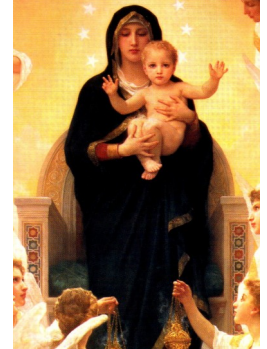
The Extended Hands of Mary



Have you ever reflected upon the shape of St. Peter's Square in Rome? From the immense grandeur of the Basilica, two colonnades extend outward, curving into a circular, open-ended enclosure. It is reminiscent of two loving arms extended outward, ready to embrace and take in all the peoples of the world. The architecture expresses in bricks and mortar the great mystery of the Church's motherhood. For the Church is indeed our Mother: at her heart, represented by the Basilica itself, resides her chief treasure, the love of Christ poured out for us in the Eucharist. From this inner sanctuary proceeds the maternal desire to reach out and draw the world into this saving mystery, that which she knows is the greatest good of mankind. In the person of

Mary, whom we celebrate this month, this mystery of the Church finds its perfection and ground. For it is she who through her immaculate conception bore the Son of God in her womb and gave him to the world through her total surrender to the Father's will. In this mystery, we also see the Church's great vocation to evangelization revealed. For at the heart of the Church's mission to evangelize lies this deep Marian solicitude for the world, the impulse to gather the human race into the heart of the Christ who alone can satisfy all of man's desiring and searching. We see this mystery very much in St. Paul, the great evangelizer, who expressed a Marian "anxiety for all the churches" (2 Cor 11:28). During this month of May, when the Church turns her gaze to Mary, let us ask her to give us her own evangelizing heart. Let us enter her school through increased prayer of the Rosary and other Marian devotions to learn from Mary how to approach those who are most in need of Christ's love. Through our contact with her, may the beauty of her love transform us, so that this same love may radiate from us, melting the barriers that so many put up before the question of God. It may be that the motherly sweetness of Mary will open the doors of hearts in a way that nothing else can!

Cultivating the Marian Dimension of Evangelization



This month is an especially grace-filled time to enter more deeply into intimacy with Mary, from whose loving heart comes the impulse for the Church's work of evangelization. Here are some simple ideas for drawing more closely to her and helping others to do the same.

- **Apostolic Letter, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae***
Individually or as a group, read Pope John Paul II's Apostolic Letter to understand more fully how the Rosary is a work of contemplation, a "compendium of the Gospel", and a privileged prayer for peace and for the family. (found on www.vatican.va)
- **Marian Sacramentals**
Wear a Miraculous Medal or Scapular as you go about your day and be prepared to answer questions by those who might want to ask what it is.
- **Marian Events in May**
Invite someone you know who might be especially in need of Our Lady's motherly consolation to your Rosary group, a May crowning, etc...
- **Marian Procession**
There are few things more "evangelical" than a procession through the streets of our neighborhoods where people can look upon the Church's most precious treasures and be touched by the glimpse of them. A parish Marian procession is a great way to bring Our Lady's motherly consolation to others without being too "threatening" to those who might not be ready to walk through a Church's doors. Bring along blessed Miraculous Medals and/or small information cards about your parish to hand out to those you pass by.
- **Pilgrimage to a Marian Shrine**
Plan a pilgrimage to a Marian Shrine and invite some friends to go. For those who might not be ready for this step, ask them if they would like to compose a letter or list of petitions that you could bring to Our Lady on their behalf.
- **Email Signature**
Add a beautiful Marian quote to your email signature as a small way of spreading Our Lady's sweet fragrance every time you email!
- **Marian Consecration for the New Evangelization**
A new translation of St. Louis de Montfort's classic Marian consecration program is now available by De Montfort Father Hugh Gillespie: www.montfortpublications.com

Visit our website: http://archphila.org/evangelization/formlity/parish_evangelization/parish_evangelization.htm

A Rosary for Evangelization



Spending our time with Mary, contemplating the mysteries of her Son, is the reason for the Rosary's great spiritual power. With the Rosary in hand, we take a receptive posture before the life of Christ and allow him fill our hearts and minds with the graces of each Mystery. When taking up the Rosary as a work of evangelization, we do so remembering that the Rosary is a "compendium of the Gospel", that Gospel that we wish to share in our evangelizing efforts. Therefore, no matter what mysteries we pray, Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, or Glorious, we are entering more fully into our vocation to evangelization because we are entering each time more deeply into the Gospel we hope to proclaim. The intimacy with Christ that comes about through our prayer of the Rosary will be evident to those we encounter, for we will speak of Christ not as someone we barely know, but someone who is deeply familiar to us. This speaks more profoundly to others than all eloquent words combined!

For a small booklet containing suggestions for praying a Rosary for Evangelization, please see the website:

[http://archphila.org/evangelization/formlaity/
parish_evangelization/links/links.htm](http://archphila.org/evangelization/formlaity/parish_evangelization/links/links.htm)

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Around the Archdiocese...

To share information about evangelization events being hosted in your parish, please contact:
Meghan Cokerley, Assistant Director, Office for Formation of the Laity
215-587-5630 • mcokeley@adphila.org

<u>Date</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Where</u>
May 1, 16, 22, 31, 7pm	<i>Liturgy Primer</i>	Archdiocesan Pastoral Center 222 N. 17th Street Philadelphia, PA 19103
Topic:	Liturgical theology to enrich understanding, inform authentic celebration and guide pastoral practice	
Speaker:	Fr. Dennis Gill, Director, Office for Divine Worship, Archdiocese of Philadelphia	
For more information: <i>Office for Divine Worship, 215-587-3537, worship@adphila.org</i>		
June 15-16	<i>National Catholic Bible Conference</i>	Czestochowa Shrine Doylestown, PA
Topic:	Scripture: A Roadmap for Living	
Speakers:	Jeff Cavins, Scott Hahn, Edward Sri, Tim Gray, Sarah Christmyer, and more	
For more information: www.CatholicBibleConference.com or 1-888-842-2853		
June 16, 8am-5pm	<i>A Call to Holiness</i>	St. Cyril of Jerusalem Church, Jamison
Speakers:	Ralph Martin, Host of "The Choices We Face" TV/Radio Program, President of Renewal Ministries; Teresa Tomeo, Host of "Catholic Connection" Catholic Talk Show; Kathleen McCarthy, President of In His Sign Network	
For more information: www.saintcyril.com , 215-343-1288		
June 21—July 4	<i>Fortnight for Religious Freedom</i>	<i>Events TBA</i>
Topic:	14 Days devoted to prayer, fasting and work for the protection and flourishing of America's first and most precious of freedoms: Freedom of Religion	
For more information: U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops: www.usccb.org Archdiocese of Philadelphia Respect Life Office: http://archphila.org/evangelization/resplife/prolife/prolife.htm		
June—September	Evangelization Formation Persons In Christ: <i>Figures of the New Evangelization</i>	Host Parishes
Topic:	A contemplative look at those who shared greatest intimacy with Christ during his earthly life in order to discern the rich and diverse dimensions of evangelization. A formation program for anyone interested in evangelization.	
Speaker:	Meghan Cokerley, Assistant Director, Office for Formation of the Laity	
For more information: http://archphila.org/evangelization/formlaity/parish_evangelization/teams/teams.htm 215-587-5630 or mcokeley@adphila.org		

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