

The Life of Mary as seen by the Mystics (Schoenau, Bridget, Mary of Agreda, Emmerich)

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Chapter 27: JUDAS (pgs. 193-195)

Mystical Adoption: Understanding between Jesus and Mary that she would be the *spiritual Mother* just as she was His *natural Mother* by praying and caring for them just as she had done for Him; Jesus' Apostles and disciples were all introduced/became close to Mary

Judas Iscariot: Handsome w/black hair, reddish beard, 25 yrs. old businessman, illegitimate son of army officer and dancer; talked too much, liked make himself important, ambitious for fame, wealth, and honors; thought Jesus might be future ruler of Israel/promised Messiah; noted Lazarus (very wealthy man) was funding Jesus' movement; asked to become one of Jesus' followers (NOTE: Jesus and Mary knew Judas would betray Jesus later but both treated him like other apostles; jealous of popularity and special relationship with Mary; Mary saw his heart and feared for loss of his soul; Judas rebuffed her; Judas wanted to handle the money and asked Mary to intercede for him, she did not and Judas did not like that; he went directly to Jesus (Jesus/Apostles accepted very little money-Judas disappointed); he witnessed Jesus turning down large donations and Mary giving generous gifts to the poor; became angry and resentful and temptation to betray Jesus was set in place; when Master defended Mary Magdalen for anointing Jesus' feet with expensive oil, he was furious

Chapter 28: Prelude to the Passion (pgs. 196- 199)

Jesus and Mary: Jesus tells Mary it is time for Him to complete His mission; encouraged Mary to *continue to be strong and brave, in order to strengthen and edify His followers*. Mary and Jesus prayed together often; prostrated themselves and prayed for sinners, *offering themselves as willing victims for the salvation of mankind*. Mary experienced *intense longing to be with Jesus*, and He was always *refreshed* when around her; they worked together to heal and convert many

Jesus' Commissioning: *At midnight, Eternal Father and Holy Spirit appeared to Jesus and Mary...Father formally accepted the sacrifice of His son, in order that humanity might thus obtain pardon through the satisfaction of divine justice upon the Innocent Victim. And addressing the Blessed Virgin, the Eternal Father said: 'Mary, Our Daughter and Spouse, I desire that you ratify this sacrifice of your Son for the redemption of men.'*" Mary replied, *O Lord, I offer Him and myself entirely as a sacrifice to Their divine Will, but I beseech Thee to permit me to suffer with Thy Son and mine!*" Heavenly Father, exalted both of them and Mary recited Psalm 109³

Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem: As Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey with great enthusiasm, Mary remained at Lazarus' home in Bethany and witnessed the event through visions and the *VOICE* of Eternal Father declared: *"I have glorified, and I shall glorify again!"*

Judas: Filled with evil, no makes arrangements to betray Jesus; Mary tried to warn him again and prayed for him

Peter: asked Jesus if He planned to take His Mother with Him; Jesus told them she would remain for a time

Jesus to followers: Mary would experience His Passion and die a *mystical* death with Him but would survive with them for another 15 yrs.

Jesus with Mary: between Palm Sunday and Holy Thursday, spent much time together; Jesus telling Mary many divine mysteries concerning the *Redemption* and all she was to do during His Passion and death.

Chapter 29: Holy Thursday (pgs. 200- 203)

Jesus to Mary: *...Just as you consented of your own free will to My Incarnation, so I now desire that you also consent to My death on the Cross. This sacrifice is the return which I ask of you for having made you My Mother..."*

Mary to Jesus: *...My Lord, I offer myself and resign myself, in order that in me, just as in Thee, The Will of the Eternal Father may be fulfilled. The greatest sacrifice that I can make is that I cannot die with Thee. O my Son and Lord, give Thy afflicted Mother strength and courage. Admit her as Thy companion so that she*

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may share Thy Passion and Cross and so that the Eternal Father may receive the sacrifice of Thy Mother in union with Thee.”; “...Mary begged Him to allow her to receive Him in the Holy Eucharist...”

The Last Supper: Jesus revealed to John *many mysteries* about His Mother and privately commissioned John to take charge of her after the Passion. Mary was in separate room with holy women; when Jesus instituted the Eucharist, Jesus gave particle of *consecrated bread* to Archangel Michael to bring to Mary without anyone else knowing what was happening.

Farewell: Mary at Jesus’ feet in adoration and worship, Jesus said to her, “*My Mother, I shall be with you in tribulation. Let us accomplish the Will of the Eternal Father and the salvation of men!*” The Jesus gave her His blessing and left for Gethsemani.

Chapter 30: The Passion (pgs. 204 - 212)

Mary: able to see everything that happened to Jesus and united her prayers/sacrifices with her Son. *Throughout His Passion, Our Lord derived almost His only consolation from the love and holiness of His Mother.* Mary had vision of Judas plotting with Pharisees. As Jesus prayed in Garden, Mary went to private room at Mary Mark’s home and asked the Eternal Father to allow her to feel both physical and spiritual pain of her Son; *Holy Trinity granted her prayer*; she prayed for Judas’ conversion, for soldiers, for Apostles, for those who insulted/mistreated Him. She felt all the blows and kick and falls He suffered

Jesus and Mary: Mystically communicated; Mary sent some of her angels to wipe the blood in His agony in the garden

The Long Night: Mary and holy women at home of Lazarus’ sister, Martha; kept informed by John; Mary went to judgement hall even when suffering everything happening to her Son; Mary prayed for Peter and his repentance

Mary and Peter: Peter came to house but was so tortured by what he had done, he quickly left and went to cave in Mount of Olives; Mary asked the GOD to forgive and she sent one of her angels to *invisibly* console him

Mary Magdalen: Could not control her grief; Blessed Virgin provided special grace to calm her

The Torturers: Mary interceded for drunken jailers not to torture Jesus

Pilate and Scourging (pgs. 208-210): Mary saw Jesus carrying the Cross – *staggering, bound, chained, covered with bruises and saliva with guards harshly pulling Him forward with ropes*; people recognized Mary as Jesus’ Mother and harassed her-she prayed for them all; saw Jesus’ carrying cross and said, “*Is this my Son? O Jesus, My Jesus!*”; *she prostrated herself on ground and worshipped her Lord with special fervor as a reparation to His desecrated divinity.* Their eyes briefly met with love and compassion. She prayed for Pilate. Jesus said, “*O My Mother, turn your eyes from Me!*” Mary fainted; she never once stopped praying for those hurting Her Son;

Carrying of the Cross: Mary begged John to take her where Jesus would pass; recognized as His mother and one shook nails of Cross in her face; when Jesus fell, she rushed to Him; soldiers moved her to side of road; she was taken into a house where she prayed for someone to help Him

THE BLESSED VIRGIN SAID TO ST BRIDGET OF SWEDEN

“At the first blow (of the scourging, I feel as if dead, and upon recovering my senses, I beheld His Body bruised and beaten to the very ribs, so that His ribs could be seen. As my Son was going to the place of His Passion, some men struck Him on the back and others hit Him in the face. And He was struck so violently and so brutally that although I did not see the person striking Him, I distinctly heart the sound of the blows.”

Chapter 31: The CRUCIFIXION (pgs. 213 - 218):

As DESCRIBED by the MOTHER of SORROWS to ST BRIDGET OF SWEDEN

“When I came with Him to the place of the Passion, I saw there all the instruments prepared for His death. He was ordered to take off His robe, and He immediately did so. And after He had undressed Himself, the soldiers said to one another: ‘These clothes belong to us, because He who is condemned to death will not use them again.’ Now upon being ordered to do so, He lay down on His back on the Cross and stretched out first His right arm. The His cruel executioners seized Him. First, they attached His right hand to the beam, in which a nail hole had been

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prepared, and they drove the nail through His hand in the part where the bone was firmest. Then they pulled His other hand in the opposite direction with a rope, as it did not reach the other nail hole, and they nailed it down in the same way. Next, they nailed His right foot, and over it the left, so that all the nerves and veins were torn apart and broken. Then they replaced on His holy head the crowns of thorns which cause such deep wounds that His blood streamed down, filling His eyes and His ears and matting His whole beard. When the first nail was driven into Him, through the shock of that first blow, I lost consciousness and fell down as though dead. Everything turned black before my eyes. My hands began to tremble. And my anguish was so bitter that I could not look up again until He was completely attached to the Cross. When I came to myself and rose again, I saw my Son hanging crucified in misery. And I, His deeply grieving Mother, felt such a shock through and through my whole being that I could hardly stand. I also heard men saying to one another that my Son was a robber, others that He was a liar, and others that no one deserved death more than my Son, and when I heard such words, my grief was renewed. Now the crown of thorns, which covered half of His forehead, was pressing down onto His head so strongly that His blood was running down over His face and filling His eyes, hair, and beard. His whole head seemed to be nothing but one stream of blood, and in order to see me, as I stood by the Cross, He had to press the blood away from His eyes by contracting His lids and brows. Because I was very close to Him during His Passion and did not allow myself to be separated from Him, for I stood right next to His Cross, and because the nearer something is to the heart, the keener is its stab, so His suffering was more painful to me than to others. And when He looked down at me from the Cross, and I looked up at Him, tears streamed from my eyes like blood from veins. And when He saw me so overwhelmed with grief, my sorrow made Him suffer so much that all the pains which He felt from His wounds were surpassed by the sight of the grief in which He beheld me. Therefore, I boldly assert that His suffering became my suffering because His Heart was mine. And just as Adam and Eve sold the world for an apple, so in a certain sense my Son and I redeemed the world with one Heart. While He was hanging there, bleeding and pierced with nails, He had compassion for my suffering as I stood near Him, sobbing. With His blood-filled eyes, He looked down at John and commended me to his care. Then after He had entrusted me to the care of His Beloved Disciple, He saw me and His friends weeping inconsolably, and from the depths of His heart He cried out in an overpowering voice, raising His head and His tear-filled eyes toward Heaven, 'My God, My God, why hast Thou abandoned Me?' I was never able to forget that cry until my Assumption into Heaven. And yet He uttered it more out of compassion for me than because of His own suffering. Then His eyes appeared half-dead, His cheeks sunken in, and His features grief-stricken. His mouth was open, and His tongue was covered with blood. While He was hanging there so torn and livid, only His Heart was still vigorous, for it was of the best and strongest quality. At His birth He had acquired from my flesh an extraordinarily pure body and an excellent constitution. His skin was so fine and delicate that the slightest blow caused the blood to flow at once. And His blood was so red that it could be seen coursing under His clear skin. And because His constitution was so very excellent, now death struggled fiercely with life in His pierced body. Alternately, the pain from His torn limbs and nerves toward His Heart, which was still strong and undamaged, causing Him indescribable torture, and then the pains would flow back from his Heart into His limbs and thus prolong the agony of His death. And yet, thought He was in the midst of such suffering, when He looked down at His weeping friends, who, rather than see Him suffer thus, would have wished to undergo the same pains themselves, the sorrow which the suffering of His friends cause Him was far greater than all the bitter pain which He had to endure in His body and His Heart, for He loved them tenderly. Then in the excessive anguish for His humanity He cried to His Father: 'Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit!' When I, His Most Sorrowful Mother, heard these words, in my keen grief of heart all my limbs trembled-and indeed as often as I later thought of that cry, I could hear it again in my ears. Then the color of death came over those parts of His body that were not covered with blood. His cheeks hung down over His teeth. His ribs were extended and could be counted. His nose became pointed and thin; Now as death was near and His Heart was breaking from the intensity of His suffering, His whole body quivered. His head rose slightly and then sank down again. His half-closed eyes opened partly. His mouth fell open and we could see His tongue all covered with blood. Then His hands shrank back a little from the nail holes, and His back bore most of the weight of His body. His fingers and arms, which had been convulsively contracted, straightened out, and His back pressed against the Cross; Finally, His head dropped, and His beard rested on His chest. Then my hands became numb. Darkness appeared before my eyes. My face turned as white as a corpse. My ears could no longer hear, and I could not utter a word. My feet gave way. And I sank to the ground. But when I arose again and saw my Son more despised than a person afflicted with leprosy, I directed my will completely toward Him. Then I fully understood that everything had happened in accordance with His Will and that it could not have happened unless He had permitted it. And I thanked Him for everything. A certain joy was even mingled with my grief, for I perceived how He, who had never sinned, had willed to suffer so much for sinners, out of His great love. Now His half-closed

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eyes were turned downward, and His already dead body hung down. His knees had bent in one direction, and His feet had twisted around the nails in the other direction as on a hinge. Then some persons who were present said in a mocking way, 'Mary, your Son is dead now.' Others, who were more considerate, said, 'Woman, now the agony of your Son has come to an end in eternal glory.' And then others said, 'Though He is dead, He will rise again!' And while they were saying this, a man came up and drove a spear so forcefully into His side that it almost came out on the other side. And as soon as he drew it out, its point was all red with blood. The Heart of my beloved Son was so violently and mercilessly pierced that the spear spit His Heart in two. When I saw that my Son's Heart had been stabbed through, I felt that my own heart was likewise pierced, and it was a wonder that it did not break. While the others left the scene, I did not want to go away. Later my Son was taken down from the Cross. Two men set three ladders. One reached to His feet, the second came to His arms under the shoulders, and the third reached the middle of His body. Then one of the men climbed up the second ladder and drove the nail out of the one arm. Then he moved the ladder and drove the nail out of the other hand, for the nails extended far beyond the beam of the Cross. Then, while he held the body up and slowly came down a bit, the other man went up the ladder that reached to the feet and drove out the nails. When they lowered the body near the ground, one supported it at the head and the other at the feet. But I, who was His Mother, held Him in the middle. Thus, we three carried Him to a stone which I covered with clean linens. All my Son's limbs had become stiff and cold in death, and the blood which had flowed over them during His Passion adhered to them. But I was indeed consoled that I could touch His body and take Him onto my lap, examine His wounds and dry up the blood. I took His white body onto my knees. It was like the body of a man suffering from leprosy. His eyes were lifeless and filled with blood. His mouth was as cold as snow. His beard was twisted together like a rope. His face was contracted. He lay on my knees as He had hung on the Cross, like a human body that has been twisted apart in all its limbs. I did not want to bend His arms, which had grown so stiff that in trying to fold them on His chest, I was only able to place them over His abdomen. His knees too could not be altogether stretched out, but remained up, as they had stiffened on the Cross. Then they laid Him out on some clean linen, and with my cloth I washed His wounds and His limbs. And with my fingers I closed His eyes and His mouth, which were open when He died. But I did not sew up the cloth, for I knew for sure that He would not decay in the tomb. Then Madalen and other holy women came up, and also here were many holy angels present, like bright sunbeams, to rend honor to the Creator. It would be impossible for anyone to describe how sad I was then. I was like a woman who gives birth to a child; after the birth her whole body is quivering, and although her pain is such that she can hardly breathe, yet in her heart she feels the greatest possible joy, because she knows that her son which she has borne will never again have to go through that suffering which he has just experienced. Thus, though I felt a grief over the death of my Son that could not be compared to any other, I also rejoiced in my soul, because I knew that my Son would not die again but would live forever. And thus, some joy was mingled with my sorrow. Then they placed Him in the tomb. Oh, how gladly would I have allowed them to entomb me alive with my Son, if it had been His Will! I can truly say that when my Son was entombed, there were two Hearts in one sepulcher. Is there not saying, 'Where your treasure is, there is also your heart?' Therefore my thoughts and my heart were always in the Tomb of my Son. After all these things had been accomplished, the good John came and led me to his house. So, you see, my daughter, what my Son suffered for you. Consider therefore how great was my suffering at the Death of my Son, and it will not be hard for you to give up the world.

Chapter 32: The Resurrection (pgs. 219 - 222)

Mary, James, and Holy Women: All returned to Cenacle; Mary thanked them for being with her during the Passion of her Son, promised them special reward and that she would be their lifelong servant/friend; they all **asked for her blessing and kissed her hand**; spent Sabbath in mourning, prayer and fasting.

James and Apostles: James found others who returned to the Cenacle; Peter was first to go alone to see Mary, he was sobbing and sorrowful; they prayed together for his forgiveness and reminded him of his responsibility *as head of Apostles to give example of strength in Faith*. Others came in and asked her forgiveness; *the sight of her caused them to feel perfect contrition for their sins/renewed love for Master*; Mary promised her *intercession* in obtaining pardon; they had renewed faith and courage with new grace.

Mary's Visions: She saw all He did after death (visiting the Blessed in Limbo); brought them over Jerusalem and noted Mary as His Mother

Mary and Jesus: At moment soul of Jesus re-entered/revived His body, Mary had **mystical** ecstasy where sorrow/sadness turned into joy and bliss; St John found her in *midst of heavenly splendor and utterly*

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transfigured with supernatural exultation; he knew Jesus had arisen; Upon arising, Jesus immediately appeared to His Mother with all the Saints and Patriarch of Old Testament; Mary prostrated herself and humbly worshipped Him

The VOICE: *'My beloved, ascend higher!'*; Mary spoke with her deceased parents, St Joseph, St John the Baptist, had *intimate* vision of Divinity.

Holy Women: Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalen and holy women; told Mary who quoted scriptural prophecies of Resurrection of the Messiah

St Thomas: Other Apostles upset with him because he did not believe them; went to speak with Mary who calmed them and told them to wait; she prayed *fervently* for Thomas and that he would be able to touch Jesus' sacred wounds

Chapter 33: The Ascension (pgs. 223 - 227)

Mary and Disciples: Returned to Cenacle in Jerusalem late Friday; Mary thanked them all and offered herself as servant to all; they responded by kissing her hands and asking for her blessing; expressed to St John that he was to be her master and a priest of GOD; Mary spent many hours in her room praying and meditating

Forgiveness: At midnight, Mary and holy women prayed together ; at 4am on Sabbath, Mary tasked John to bring Peter and other Apostles to her; prayed with each of them and reminded them of many times He forgave sinners; Mary promised them she would intercede for them and obtain pardon-they were strengthened

Mary's visions: Witnessed her Son visiting patriarchs and souls in *blessed Limbo* and bringing them over Jerusalem; directed them to Mary at the Cenacle, *'This is Mary, My Mother.'*

Easter Morning: Mary had *mystical ecstasy* when Jesus' *re-entered and revived* His Sacred Body in sepulcher; St John saw Mary in *heavenly splendor and transfigured with supernatural exultation*; he knew what Jesus had risen from tomb; Jesus showed Himself to His Mother *together with all the Saints and Patriarchs of Old Testament*; Mary prostrated herself, *Jesus took her hand, raised her and drew her to Himself in mystical embrace*; she saw her parents, St Joseph, and St John the Baptist; Mary Magdalen and others came to tell Mary Jesus had appeared to them; Mary quoted Scripture regarding the resurrection of the Messiah

Doubting Thomas: did not believe Jesus had risen; other Apostles upset with him; Mary explained this too would bring greater benefit to others and glory of God; she prayed for Thomas

Chapter 34: Pentecost and the Early Church (pgs. 228 - 236)

Mary and the Ascension of Christ: Mary had a *mystical* experience as the will and power of Almighty GOD raised her soul with Jesus; she was given a choice to *stay in glory of Heaven or return to the world to guide and assist the new Church*. Mary, *'Eternal GOD, I accept this task, and for the time being I renounce the peace and joy of Thy presence. I sacrifice it to further the love which Thou has for men...'*

Mary's Nine Day Retreat: For nine days after Pentecost, Mary made intense retreat at Cenacle with Apostles and prepared them for Holy Spirit (wjf: Remember she was taught everything by her Son and the Eternal Father); helped them understand *mental prayer*; Apostles see Mary as *Mediatrice, Consoler, and Mother of the spiritual Church*; *they knelt before her when she gave them a blessing*

Pentecost: 120 disciples gathered at Cenacle in *fervent* prayer with *arms crossed on their chests, their eyes looking down at ground or closed*; was perfect silence throughout; just before sunrise (pgs. 229-230), *luminous silvery cloud descended on Jerusalem from Heaven and covered the entire city, especially Cenacle and Mt Sion over which enormous mass of light seemed to condense and become transparent, like a sun throwing out its flames in all directions...everything flooded with dazzling light...Apostles and Blessed Virgin seemed to be blazing with a mystical transparent luminosity...they simultaneously raised their heads and opened their mouths...into each mouth there fell a jet of fire...each person filled with divine inspiration and grace and wisdom*. Apostles received seven gifts of Holy Spirit: Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge,

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Piety, Counsel, Fortitude and Fear. All others received *mystical infusion*...seemed almost intoxicated...*through the little flock there flowed a new life and a new spirit of holy joy, faith and courage.*

Mary at Cenacle: When Apostles left to preach, she remained at Cenacle, *prostrate on the floor* praying for all who heard the WORD of GOD, '*...And there were added three thousand souls...*'

Mary and converts: Met with many in private interviews based on their needs, wealthy gave gifts that were distributed to the poor, she continued to pray for all; often prepared meals and served Apostles, nursing the sick

After Pentecost-Day 7+: 5,000 converts, Mary prayed to her Divine Son for their Baptism; Apostles celebrate first Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, *in order that the Bread of Life* might be distributed to all converts; Holy Spirit inspired Peter and John to consult with Mary on these two events; Mary explained to Apostles and new disciples the *significance of the Holy Eucharist and the Mass.*

Group Finances: Mary explained Jesus told her that *...one of the important purposes of His coming into the world was to uplift poverty and to teach it to mortals who have a horror of it...that holiness and perfection ...is based on most perfect voluntary poverty and contempt of money...* **Mary's Answer:** '*...detach our hearts from the love of money and of wealth.*'

Preparation for Baptism and Mass: Mary and other women procured all that would be needed for the Apostles to perform Baptisms and celebrate Mass, cleaned Cenacle; during the events, Mary stood to the side in prayer

Mary's First Communion: After Peter pronounced words of Consecration, he received Eucharist then gave to Mary who *humbly approached the altar, making three profound prostrations and touching the ground with her face, and then from St Peter's hands, she received the Body of her Divine Son.* She returned to seat and remained in *ecstatic trance...*

Mary as intercessor: Peter/John arrested, they prayed to Mary for help, Divine Master answered and she sent some of her angels to help them; often sent her angels to help, guide and encourage other Apostles especially one disciple named Stephen, she was with him in many special ways; as he was being stoned, Blessed Virgin gave him her blessing and encouraged him.

Apostles Creed: She realized Apostles/disciples needed simple way to explain Christian beliefs; prayed/fasted for 30 days for them; they inspired to consult her; celebrated Mass; Mary asked each Apostle to define one of the mysteries of faith: Apostle's Creed – John=*suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried, Thomas=Descended into Hell, arose from the dead on the third day...*Mary made many copies and her angels delivered to various disciples.

Leaving Jerusalem: Mary wove each a brownish-gray robe similar to Jesus', large wooden cross and small, metal case with sacred relics from Jesus' life (thorns, pieces of swaddling clothes, lines used at His circumcision and Passion)

Prayers of Mary: Prayed for Saul with the martyred St Stephen; described vision to Peter and John about Saul's conversion, warned them of the persecution of the Church.

SPEAKING OF PENTECOST, THE BLESSED VIRGIN SAID TO VERNEABLE MOTHER MARY OF AGREDA

"My daughter, the children of the Church hold this blessing of Almighty God in small esteem and thankfulness. The Divine Spirit, in coming for the first time upon the Apostles, intended it as a pledge and proof that He would confer the same favor on the rest of the children of the Church, and that He was ready to communicate His Gifts to all who would dispose themselves to receive them. In our times, too, He comes to many just souls, although not so openly. Blessed is the soul who longs for this grace which enkindles, enlightens, and consumes all that is earthly and carnal and raises it up to a new union with God Himself. As your true and loving Mother, I want you to have this happiness, and therefore I again urge you to prepare your heart by trying to maintain an unshatterable inner peace and calm, no matter what happens to you."

Chapter 35: Mary's Last Years (pgs. 237 - 245)

Timeline: Mary lived 15 years after Jesus' Ascension; no one saw her laugh, very serious, she slept little

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and ate little; dressed for special events with large white mantle, veil was long, ornamental, embroidered in blue; black veil was used when she walked the Way of the Cross

Mary and St James (brother of John): Mary especially liked him (was first to set out in missionary journey, 1st to be martyred; Mary often sent him her angels; sometimes she appeared to him; God had told Mary to instruct James to build a shrine in her honor in Saragossa

Flight to Ephesus: Lord told Mary to go with John to Ephesus due to Herod persecuting Christians in Jerusalem; spent much time praying for Christians suffering persecution, for ocean travelers, and even fish in the sea; James visited Mary before his death

St James: saw Mother of God surrounded by angels; he asked her, *'Mother of my Lord, I beg you to offer the sacrifice of my life to your Son!'*; when he died, Mary went with him to Heaven, **Almighty God said** to her, *'My Daughter, for the exaltation of My Holy Name, for thy glory, and for the benefit of mortals, I now give thee My royal word that if men, at the hour of their death, call upon thee with affection, like my servant James, I will look upon them with fatherly mercy.'*

St. Peter: Arrested in Jerusalem; Mary had visions of all that was happening; prayed; the Lord *instructed* her to send demons back to Hell and send an angel to free Peter, and consent to death of Herod-she wet over his lost soul

Mary in Ephesus: Continued to help poor, sick and dying, converted nine pagan priestesses

Mary and Peter: Peter asked Mary to come to Jerusalem to be present to decide if Law of Moses should be enforced for Gentile converts. On boat across sea, devil stirred up water, Jesus came and calmed them Mary, Paul and Barnabas: Upon arriving in Jerusalem, visited Mary to thank her for praying for them; Paul had *mystical* vision of unique role of Blessed Mother in Church of Christ

Mary at the Assembly: Peter insisted her presence; prayed together to Holy Spirit for 10 days prior to the meeting, then had Mass and Communion; Mary cleaned the Cenacle for the meeting and went to her room where she had a *mystical* vision where Almighty God announced to Satan that Mary would always defend His Church from their attacks; Holy Trinity promised they would always assist the Church with *omnipotence of the Father, wisdom of the Son and the love of the Holy Ghost*; 10th day of Council of Apostles, decided **not** to impose ancient Jewish practices on Gentile converts.

The Gospels: When Matthew, Mark, Luke and John wrote Gospels, Mary prayed for them, asked them only mention her if *absolutely necessary*; Mary shared more with St Luke and allowed him to write it years after her death (Did not want converts did not make her a *goddess*

Mary and the Apostles: Mary gave them relics of Jesus' clothes/objects of the Passion; commanded her angels to watch over all the Apostles on their travels; some appeared *visibly* to the Apostles; she wrote letters to them; Appeared to St Peter in Antioch and Rome

Mary's Ministry to the Poor and sick: She never stopped helping them (pgs. 242-243)

Mary and Satan (pgs. 243 – 244): Mary's continence was of *radiant sanctity*; she converted many hardcore Jews; Satan wanted to destroy her but, *'Almighty God gave Lucifer a vision of the Blessed Mother as "a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon was under her feet, and upon her head was a crown of twelve stars." And the demons realized with anguish that they were defeated and bound by the God-given power of this holy Virgin whom they had planned to destroy.*

Mary's longing for Heaven (pgs. 244 – 245): God raised her to a *unique mystical state of continuous abstractive vision...filled her soul with infused wisdom*"; Every day, she relived the Passion of Jesus, she prayed, sometimes wept tears of blood, she prayed continuously from Thursd afternoons until Sunday morning; she heard daily Mass (St John) and received Holy Communion; very fervent before and after communion (Jesus made personal visits to her); Mary suffered a *ceaseless* spiritual martyrdom; every year on feast of the Ascension, the Lord asked Mary if when prefer to go to Heaven or return to help Church. Her answer was for God's Will to be done.

THE BLESSED VIRGIN SAID TO ST. BRIDGET OF SWEDEN

"After the Ascension of my Son, I still lived a long time in the world. Such was the Will of God, in order that by seeing my patience and my conduct many more souls might be converted to Him, and in order

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that the Apostles and other elect souls of God might be strengthened. Also, the natural constitution of my being required that I should live longer and that thereby my crown might be increased. During all the time that I lived after my Son's Ascension, I visited the places where He had suffered and where He had performed His miracles. Thus, the memory of His Passion became so imprinted on my heart that it remained quite fresh in my mind, whether I happened to be eating or working. My senses were so completely withdrawn from worldly things that I constantly alternated between new supernatural yearnings and sorrows. Yet I controlled my grief and my joy in such a way that I did not neglect any of my duties toward God. My way of life among people was such that apart from my scanty meals, I paid no attention to what human beings thought of me or expected me to do."

Chapter 36: The Dormition (The passing of the Virgin Mary from earthly life.) (pgs. 246 - 252)

Mary at 60 yrs. old: Holy Spirit sent Archangel Gabriel to tell Mary she would die in three years

Archangel Gabriel: *'The Lord sends us to announce to thee in His name the happy end of thy pilgrimage upon earth. Exactly three years from today, thou shalt be taken up and received into the everlasting joy of Heaven'*

Mary's impending death: *'Behold the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done unto me according to thy word.'*

Mary and the angels sang hymns of thanksgiving to God; Mary asked for all their prayers to help prepare her

Mary prepares the Church for her death: She did not tell anyone of her impending death; she immediately wrote encouraging letters to all the Apostles and disciples; continued to strengthen faith of converts; eventually told St John and asked him to pray for her; John was upset but she told him she would always be his **Mother and Advocate** in Heaven; he was allowed to share secret with St James the Lesser but others innately knew – all creation seemed to have a mysterious sorrow especially the birds; eventually close friend knew

Mary's last two years: She increased her charity work, healed sick-body and soul; she continued with conversions; Jesus visited her more often; she received daily Holy Communion and in such radiance that others were filled with **mystical**⁴ joy

Mary's approaching death: Mary and John went to all the holy places of the Way of the Cross as she recalled her Son's suffering at each place; Jesus appeared to her on Calvary; begged for His blessing; Mary selected her tomb in valley near Gethsemani

Mary's last will and testament: Made to Holy **Trinity** (pgs. 249-250); Jesus said, *"Let it be done as though wishest and ordainest."*

Mary's last request: That Apostles be present at her death so they might bless her and pray for her; Jesus told her they were on their way

Mary's last day: She asked for Peter's blessing; the Apostles, disciple and holy women quietly gathered around her; all saw an *extraordinary celestial light* that seemed to *enfold* her; thanked St John for his kindness and instructed him to distribute her few clothes and belongings

Mary's final moments: *"Dearest children, I have loved you with that tender love and charity which was given to me by my divine Son, whom I have seen in you, His chosen friends. My children, love the Church and love one another."* To Peter, *I commend my son John and all the rest to thee, Peter.* To all, *I promise you that in Heaven I will ever look upon you as a Mother.* She blessed them all *touching their foreheads with her crossed hands* and asked them to pray for her and with her while St Peter was celebrating Mass; Jesus came to her and offered her a natural or supernatural death-she chose natural; St Peter gave her Holy Communion and anointed her with oils (Extreme Unction)⁵

Mary's death: Cenacle filled with marvelous light and fragrance; Jesus appeared to Apostles, angels chanted; Mary kept her eyes on Jesus; she was transfigured; seemed to be *inflamed* with fire; had expression of *heavenly joy* and sweet, gentle smile

Mary's Last Words: *Into Thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.* Her soul left her body

THE BLESSED VIRGIN SAID TO VENERABLE MOTHER MARY OF AGREDA

"My daughter, I wish to inform thee of another privilege which was conceded to me in the hour of my glorious Transition. It was this: that all those devoted to me who shall call upon me at the hour of death, making me their Advocate in memory of my happy Transition and of my desiring to imitate my divine Son in death, shall be under my special protection in that hour and shall experience my intercession. And since death follows upon life and ordinarily corresponds with it, the surest pledge of a good death is a good life, a life in which the heart is freed and detached from earthly love."

Chapter 37: The Assumption and Crowning (pgs. 253 - 259)

Mary's Burial: When those in room realized Mary had died, sorrow was very intense; they sang hymns to honor her; two servant girls instructed to anoint and wrap her body but blinded by *dazzling light* surrounding her bed and could not see her body; Peter and John entered room; a Voice told them, *"Let not this virginal body be touched!"* Angels singing, *Á Virgin before the Nativity, during the Nativity and after the Nativity...*; Mary carefully placed on **bier** (a movable frame on which a coffin or a corpse is placed before burial or cremation or on which it is carried to the grave); had funeral, then took her to tomb near Getsemani; attendees were all Christians in Jerusalem, invisible multitude of angels, patriarchs, prophets and saints, many conversion of Jews and Gentiles; all experienced sweet fragrance and heavenly music as she passed
The Tomb: Peter and John took her into tomb and closed with large stone; Apostles and holy women remained watching and praying before the tomb

Mary in Heaven: Jesus took Mary with His right hand and presented her before the throne of the Divinity and said, *"Eternal Father, it is right that to My Mother be given the reward of a Mother. And since during all her life and in all her work, she was as like to Me as it is possible for a creature to be, let her also be like to Me in glory and on the throne of Our Majesty."* Father and Holy Ghost approved, and Mary's soul raised to right hand of her divine Son and placed beside the throne of the Holy Trinity.

Mary's Assumption: Jesus brought Mary's soul back to her body and raised her up (wif: Too much to summarize -pgs. 255 -256);

Presentation to the Holy Trinity: *"At throne of the Holy Trinity, the three Divine Persons received and welcomed Mary in a **mystical** embrace of eternal love, after she had bowed before Them in deep humility and reverence. She was attired in a marvelous sparkling robe that trailed behind her and scintillated with multicolored iridescence. The Eternal Father announced all the angels, 'Our Daughter Mary has been chosen by Our Will from among all the creatures as the first in Our favor, and she has never fallen from the position of a true Daughter. Therefore, she has a claim to Our Kingdom, of which she is to be acknowledged and crowned the lawful Sovereign and Queen.* The Incarnate Word declared, *'To My true and natural Mother belongs all the creatures that I have created and redeemed. And of all things over which I am King, she too shall be rightful Queen.'* And the Holy Ghost said, *'By the title of My only chosen Spouse, to which she has faithfully corresponded, the crown of Queen is also due to her for all eternity.*

The Voice said, *'Our Beloved and Chosen One among creatures, Our Kingdom is yours. You are the Queen and Sovereign of the Seraphim and of all Our ministering angels and of all the created universe. We give you power, majesty, and dominion over it. While filled with grace beyond all others, you humbled yourself to the lowest place in your own estimation. Receive now the supreme honor which you deserve and participate in the sovereign power exercised by the Divinity over all that Our Omnipotence has created. From your royal throne you shall rule over Hell and earth and nature. Our own Will shall ever be ready to accomplish your will. You shall be the Protectress, Advocate and Mother of the Church Militant. Whenever any of the children of Adam call upon you from their hearts or serve you, you shall relieve them and help them in their labors and necessities. You shall be the Friend and Defender of the just and of Our friends. All of them you shall comfort, console, and fill with blessings according to their devotion to you. Therefore, We make you the treasury of all Our graces. In your hands, we place the distribution of Our grace and blessings. For We wish nothing to be given to the world that does not pass through your hands. And We will refuse nothing that you wish to grant. Whatever is Ours shall be yours, just as you have ever been Ours. And you shall reign with Us forever.'* All paid homage to their new Queen and Sovereign.

The Life of Mary as seen by the Mystics (Schoenau, Bridget, Mary of Agreda, Emmerich)

Back on Earth: Peter and John noticed music/singing had stopped; enlightened that Blessed virgin's body was taken to Heaven; opened tomb for St James (traveling when Mary died); inside tomb on the bier was only Mary's robe and mantle; called others to come see, "*Come and see – she is no longer here!*" Peter took her robe and mantle; they all prayed and sang hymns of praise outside the tomb; replaced the stone

Angel at Mary's tomb: "*Men of Galilee, why do tarry here? Your Queen and ours is ow living body and soul in Heaven and reigning in it forever with Christ. She has sent me to confirm for you this truth. And she recommends to you again the Church, the conversion of souls, and the spread of the Gospel. She wishes you now to return to your ministry. From her throne, she will watch over you and protect you.*"

The Apostles: Celebrated this as first feast of Our Lady's Assumption with great joy and peace of heart; went back to Cenacle, *prayed and sang together hymns of thanksgiving to God.*

THE BLESSED VIRGIN SAID TO ST BRIDGET OF SWEDEN

One day while I was admiring the Love of God in a spiritual ecstasy, my soul was filled with such joy that it could hardly contain itself. And during that contemplation, my soul departed from my body. You cannot imagine what splendor my soul perceived the, and with what honor the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost welcomed it, and with what a multitude of angels it was carried upward. But those persons who were in my house with me when I gave up my spirit fully understood what divine mysteries I was then experiencing, because of the unusual light which they saw. Thereafter, those friends of my Son who had been brought together by God buried my body int eh Valley of Josaphat. Countless angels accompanied them. My body lay entombed in the ground. They were taken up to Heaven with infinite honor and rejoicing. There is no other human body in heaven except the glorious Body of my Son and my body. That my Assumption was not known to many persons was the Will of God, my Son, in order that faith in His Ascension might first of all be firmly established in the hearts of men, for they were not prepared to believe in His Ascension, especially if my Assumption had been announced in the beginning."

(See Attachments

BIBLIOGRAPHY (pgs. 260- 263)

SUPPLEMENT TO THE BIBLIOGRAPHY (as of 1975) (pgs. 264- 265)

¹**Nihil Obstat:** (In the Roman Catholic Church) a certification by an official censor that a book is not objectionable on doctrinal on moral grounds.

²**Imprimatur:** an official license by the Roman Catholic Church to print an ecclesiastical or religious book.

³**Psalm 109**

The Lord said to my Lord:

Sit Thou at my right hand.

Until I make Thine enemies the footstool of Thy feet.

The Lord shall send forth the scepter of Thy power out of Sion;

rule Thou in the midst of Thine enemies.

With Thee is the principality in the day of Thy strength, in the brightness of Thy saints:

from the womb before the daystar I begot Thee.

The Lord hath sworn, and He will not repent;

Thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

The Lord at Thy right hand hath broken kings in the day of His wrath.

He shall judge nations, He shall fill ruins, He shall crush heads in the land of many.

He shall drink of the torrent in the way:

therefore shall He lift up His head.

The Life of Mary as seen by the Mystics (Schoenau, Bridget, Mary of Agreda, Emmerich)

4What is the difference between a prophet and a mystic?

When “*mystics*” have an experience of God they inevitably experience that everything is united, everything is One. Mystics will carry the heart's passion; prophets will see—and announce—the path.

What are some examples of mystical experiences in the Bible?

Abraham entertained “*angels*.” Gideon spoke with “*God*.” Samson experienced supernatural strength.

Mary spoke with an angel. The disciples saw Jesus transfigured and personally worked wonders.

Mysticism is Bible-based religion.

Is the Catholic Church mystical? <https://www.simplycatholic.com/what-does-it-mean-to-be-a-mystic>

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains that: “Spiritual progress tends toward ever more intimate union with Christ. This union is called 'mystical' because it participates in the mystery of Christ through the sacraments — 'the holy mysteries' — and, in him, in the mystery of the Holy Trinity.” May 29, 2023

The Catholic Church is the Mystical Body of Christ Author: Fr. William G. Most

<https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/teachings/catholic-church-is-the-mystical-body-of-christ-89>

Speaking of full membership in the Church, Pius XII, in his Encyclical on the *Mystical Body*, said it is the society of those who have been baptized, and who profess the faith of Christ, and who are governed by their bishops under the visible head, the Pope, the Bishop of Rome.

The Church came into being when Christ died on the Cross, but it was formally inaugurated on

Pentecost, when He sent the Holy Spirit as He had promised. St. Paul speaks of all Christians as members of Christ, so that with Him, they form one Mystical Body (Cf. 1 Cor 12:12-31; Col 1:18; 2:18-20; Eph. 1:22-23; 3:19; 4:13). St. Paul did not use the word *Mystical*. It was developed more recently to bring out the fact that this union is unique, there is no parallel to it. It is not the same as the union of a physical body, nor that of a business corporation.

The Church, the Mystical Body, exists on this earth, and is called the **Church militant**, because its members struggle against the world, the flesh and the devil. The **Church suffering** means the souls in Purgatory. The **Church triumphant** is the Church in Heaven. The unity and cooperation of the members of the Church on earth, in Purgatory, in Heaven is also called the **Communion of Saints**. When St. Paul uses the word “*Saints*” in opening an Epistle, he does not mean they are morally perfect. He has in mind Hebrew *qadosh*, which means *set aside for God*, or *coming under the covenant*. Being such means of course they are called to moral perfection. But of course, not all have reached it in this world.

The word “*Saint*” in the modern sense means someone who has been canonized by the Church in recent times or was accepted as such by the Church in earlier times. If a person is shown to have practiced heroic virtue—beyond what people in general do - in all virtues, the title “*Venerable*” is given; with two miracles by that one's intercession, the title is “*Blessed*”; two more miracles can lead to canonization and the title of “*Saint*”.

Taken from The Basic Catholic Catechism

PART FIVE: The Apostles' Creed IX-XII

Ninth Article: "The Holy Catholic Church; the Communion of Saints"

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5 Extreme Unction (SACRAMENT: Anointing of the Sick)

The Roman Catholic sacrament of anointing of the sick or extreme unction is performed on a seriously ill person for spiritual and physical strength, or when a person is close to death as preparation for heaven.

The priest anoints the sick person with oil and prays over him. When combined with confession and the Eucharist, it is called “*Last Rites*.” At one time it was reserved for those extremely ill and thought close to death. The Roman Catholic Church has been seeking to make it clear that it is not just for those near death. The Roman Catholic Church states that this sacrament can be repeatedly used during the long course of an ongoing illness and that it should be used before serious surgery when a dangerous illness is the reason for the surgery. It can also be requested for those who are unconscious or who have lost the use of reason if they would have asked for it were they in control of their faculties.

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543 The Roman Catholic Church states that the biblical basis for the sacrament is the following passage: "Is
544 anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among
545 you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in
546 the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he
547 has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one
548 another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James
549 5:13-16). The Roman Catholic Church also cites Mark 6:13 ("And they cast out many demons, and
550 anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them") as the first allusion to the sacrament of the
551 anointing of the sick. And while the Roman Catholic Church sees it as the responsibility of every Christian
552 to care for the sick, it states that Christ charged "His priests to anoint the sick while praying over them in
553 a sacramental gesture that would be more properly a deed of His own personal care" (cf. [James](#)
554 [5:14](#)).