

## The teaching of the Church



- That the most Blessed Virgin Mary, at the first instance of Her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God

and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful. This is dogma which was promulgated Pope Pius IX in an Apostolic Constitution "Ineffabilis Deus".

- The epistle (Proverbs 8:23-35) recalls this fact, applying to the Most Holy Virgin the words of eternal Wisdom; already the Holy Virgin was in the mind of God: "I am conceptaeram — I was already conceived" — yes, conceived in the mind of God, and thus in the divine plan God was already thinking of the Virgin Mary.

- She is the creature that was created, designed by God to destroy sin. Thus there is no creature more free of sin than the Blessed Virgin Mary. She has crushed the head of the serpent.

## The beauty of Our Lady

St. Bernadette gives witness to this when, describing the apparitions at Lourdes, she says of Our Lady:

*She is so beautiful,  
that one would be willing  
to die to see Her again.*



**"Tota pulchra es, Maria,  
et macula originalis non est in te  
— Thou art all beautiful, O Mary, and  
there is no stain of original sin in Thee."**



I am the  
**Immaculate  
Conception**



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## St. Maximilian about Immaculate Conception

In 1858 the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette Soubirous a total of eighteen times at Lourdes in France. On March 25, 1858 Our Lady spoke to St. Bernadette, "Que soy era immaculada councepciou"

*"I am the Immaculate Conception"*

**Saint Maximilian Kolbe meditated about these words and wrote:**



"She had said, not 'I am pure' but 'I am Purity itself', not 'I am white' but 'I am Whiteness itself'. Something that is white can cease to be white, but Whiteness is always white.

Thus Mary is more than conceived without sin, She is the Immaculate Conception itself, that is, the model, the archetype of stainless humanity.

Her soul, furthermore, was not only preserved from original sin, it was flooded with divine grace, whence the words of the angel: "Hail, full of grace. The Lord is with Thee".

## Practical lesson for us

Saint Maximilian Kolbe often expounded the practical consequences of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception.



- For all of us who have been baptized, we who in a certain sense have received more than others because of the offices we may occupy in Holy Church, all of us: If the Blessed Virgin Mary was Immaculate in Her Conception it is because She was to be the Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ, because She had to carry within herself Our Lord, the Son of God, because She was charged with giving Him to the world, because She was to live in proximity with Him, to be His Mother.

- We Christians, who receive Holy Communion, we receive the same Jesus Christ, the same Body, which was conceived by the Blessed Virgin Mary.

- We must live without sin. We must struggle against anything that might tarnish our souls.

- We must be a sign, a sign of truth, a sign of holiness, a sign of flight from sin; we must be a sign of the presence of the Virgin Mary in our souls.

## Prayer of St. Pius X to the Immaculate Conception

O most holy Virgin who didst find favour in God's sight and hast become His Mother, O Virgin, immaculate in body and soul, in thy faith and in thy love, look down with pity on us wretched who in our need seek thy powerful protection.

The evil serpent on whom was cast the primal curse continues, alas to attack and ensnare the poor children of Eve. But thou, our mother Blessed our Queen and our Advocate, thou who from the first instant of thy conception didst crush the head of this cruel enemy, receive our prayers: United to thee with one heart, we beseech thee to present them before the throne of God.

May we never be caught in the snares around us, but rather may we all reach the harbour of salvation. Despite the awesome perils which threaten, may God's Church and all Christian society sing out once again the hymn of deliverance, of victory and of peace.  
Amen.