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The Glory of Mary

Often, we see headlines with flashy words like number one or spotlight. We invest ourselves in stalking social media, tracking charts, and watching others revel in the spotlights they created. We become possessed by the idea of being first, longing for our name at the top of the list. Life becomes a competition, and we become addicted to our search for "glory." But, we aren't searching for the right kind of glory - glory with God and our fellow Catholics - we want fame for ourselves.

Mary never got caught in the continuous search for fame; she strived to bring others to glory - the glory of God. Through her, Jesus was born; she brought our Savior into the world, yet she never tried to steal the spotlight. She prompted Him to perform his first public miracle at the wedding of Cana, helping the hosts, but she didn't claim any credit. She raised Him, supported Him, taught Him, and loved Him, but she never tried to overshadow Him. When her Son rose to glory, she didn't force herself into the frame; she allowed Him to shine, projecting the light of God, knowing that she had helped bring Christ into so many people's lives. Why can't we imitate Mary and bring Christ to others?

There are countless ways to imitate Mary and bring Christ to others, starting by acting out of love for others instead of benefit for ourselves. Take Jesus's birth for example. Mary created the most amazing gift for us, Christ our Savior, but she didn't do it for a thank you. She did it out of love for us and God, so that we could one day spread the gift. Now, we each have a responsibility to bring that gift of Jesus to others, and God has given us each different gifts to do so. We have to

choose between using our gifts to imitate Mary and bring Jesus into others' lives, or using our gifts for self-fulfillment. I pick the former. I can help my classmates with their schoolwork, piano for the elderly and teach my volleyball teammates tricks. These actions utilize my gifts from God to bring Jesus into others' lives. When we help those in need, we demonstrate our love for Jesus by respecting human dignity.

Another way Mary brought Christ to others was in the Gospel of John when she supported Jesus in His first public miracle. When she prompted Him to help at the wedding of Cana, saving the hosts from embarrassment, Jesus complied, fulfilled by her support. When He was worshiped and honored by His disciples for performing the miracle, Mary didn't protest for credit. Instead, she was happy for Him and allowed Him to receive that praise, knowing that she had once again helped to bring Christ's love to others. We can do the same by helping others accomplish great things, and then by being proud of them when they achieve their goals, without pointing out our assistance. In this case, I can imitate Mary by helping my little sister with a school project, teaching my volleyball teammate how to serve, or helping my friend win a competition, and then I won't steal any credit when they achieve their goals. We can all help others achieve their goals in our own unique ways, just like Mary did.

Mary loved Jesus and cared for Him without expecting anything in return. She was humble, faithful, and brought the light of Christ to everyone. It may seem hard to detach ourselves from the natural desire for recognition, but the reward for doing so - harmony in Heaven - is so glorious that we can endure that difficult transition. We can imitate Mary by selflessly giving others gifts of love, hope, and Jesus. If we do everything out of love for others and God, we won't have to worry about being number one, because we will know that the greatest reward is eternal life in Heaven.