

A Season to Learn about Mary

Greetings as fall colors our world!

Although we think of May as the month of the Blessed Mother, in September and October, we celebrate three beautiful feasts tied to her life: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, Our Lady of Sorrows, and Our Lady of the Rosary. Autumn is a rich time to explore the faith and witness of Mary, the mother of Jesus, with your children.

What does Mary's example tell us about how to face life's losses?

On the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, which is nine months from the Solemnity of the Annunciation, we celebrate Mary's birth without sin. We remember that without the birth of this powerful woman disciple, this woman who says "yes" to be the mother of the Son of God, ("May it be done to me according to your word" [Luke 1:26–38]) we would not have received Jesus. Mary—the pure, holy, courageous and patient disciple—can help us more deeply understand her son. How are we saying "yes" to what God asks?



When we think of Mary, we cannot forget that she not only raised Jesus and journeyed with him in his public ministry; she suffered as she stood with his followers at the foot of his Cross. Perhaps we know someone who is suffering, facing injustice, illness, or death.

What does Mary's example tell us about how to face life's losses? Reading the Bible stories in which she appears and discussing her trust in God can prepare us for moments in which our lives are challenging or even tragic.

One of the best ways, of course, to experience the witness of Mary, her role as Mediatrix, and her place in the life of Jesus is to pray the Rosary. The Mysteries—Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious, and Luminous—profoundly unfold the Gospel story. If all members of your family do not have a rosary, consider making them (the slide rosary is particularly easy for children of all ages). Then, pray this beautiful prayer together.

In this season in which we remember you, "O Mary!, conceived without sin, *pray for us who have recourse to thee!*"