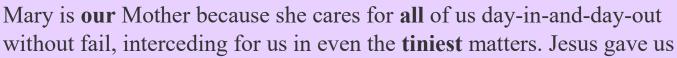
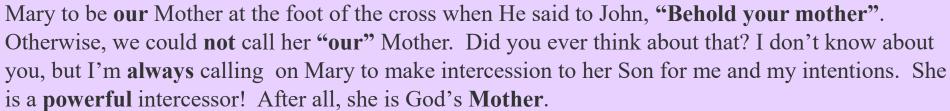
May 4, 2001

In 1945, Pope Pius XII declared **May** as a **Marian Month** dedicated to our **Blessed Mother.** The Catholic Church has set aside the **entire** month of May to honor **Mary**, Mother of God. **Not** just a day *in* May, but the **entire** month.





Mary's "yes" is most profound in the way that it changed her life. Because of her "yes", she became **not** only a mother, but the **mother of Jesus.** An **ordinary** life was made **sacred** by way of an **invitation** that she affirmed; it was **deepened**, but her daily life remained mostly the same.

We honor Mary in many ways: rosary, litany, hymns, May altars, May crowning, and many other devotions What is your favorite devotion to Mary? Mine is her "fiat", her "yes" to God at the Annunciation. Each morning, I ask for the grace to say "yes" to whatever God sends me that day. Some days I'm better at that than others! The same is true in our lives. When we say "yes," God is most often inviting us to what is already within our capacity—inviting us to see our ordinary lives as sacred. Like Mary, we are invited to say "yes" and let our lives be sacred?

Prayer helps us become **aware** of our needs, our desires, and our relationships. Only by **noticing** what is **within** are we able to connect with what is **beyond** ourselves. As such, **prayer** is our participation in the **deepening of the sacred**. Mary taught us this when she said, "**yes.**" And, once Mary said "**yes**" to the angel, she **kept on** saying **yes** to whatever **God** was doing in her life. Let us pray for this grace!