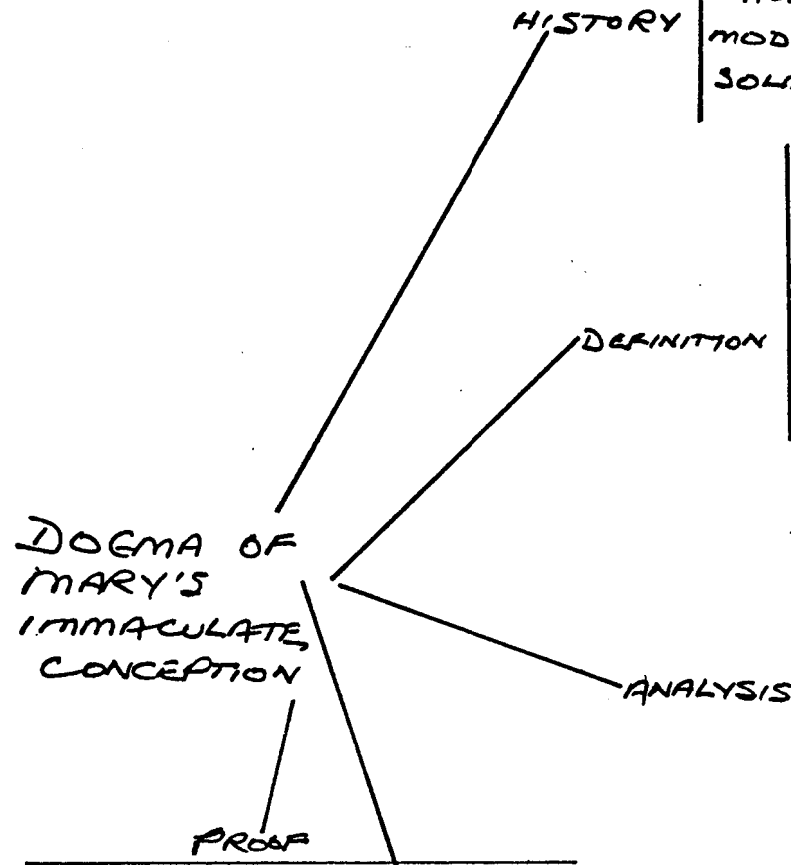


IMMACULATE CONCEPTION I



HISTORY

- EARLY CHURCH: IMPLICIT FAITH
- PATRISTIC AGE: DEVELOPMENT OF DOCTRINE
- SCHOLASTIC PERIOD: CONTROVERSY
- MODERN TIMES: UNIVERSAL CATHOLIC ACCEPTANCE
- SOLENN DEFINITION: PIUS IX, DEC. 8, 1854.

DEFINITION

TEXT: "The Most Holy Virgin Mary was, in the first moment of her conception, by a unique gift of grace and privilege of Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of mankind, preserved free from all stain of original sin."

- ANALYSIS**
- Conception a moment of time in which Mary's soul was created by God and infused into the bodily matter prepared by Joachim and Anna.
 - Essence of original sin consists in the lack of sanctifying grace. Mary was preserved from this defect. Therefore she came into existence
 - with sanctifying grace
 - with the infused virtues of faith, hope & charity
 - with the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit
 - The Immaculate Conception is an absolutely unique gift, never before or after.
 - Christ's merits pre-redemmed His Mother.
 - Because Mary had no stain of original sin, she
 - had no merely passions
 - was not required to die
 - would not have had to suffer

PROOF

I. SCRIPTURE

- "I will put enmity between you & the woman, between her seed and yours, and" (GEN. 3:15).
- "Hail, full of grace" (LK. 1:28).
- (KECHARITOMENE).

II. TRADITION

Earliest thinking of Mary's sinlessness

IMPLICATIONS

- Mary was impeccable. She was preserved from all actual sin through life.
- Mary was spared from concupiscence, or all merely passions.
- Mary was not subject because she was subject to the debt of sin, namely bodily sin - mortality and suffering. Yet she endured pain in conformity with her Son.