IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Meaning of Holiness
  Essential = possession of Divine Grace
  Moral = Practice of Virtue
  Conditioned on Essential Holiness
  Recognized in Conduct

Grace Conceived in View of Apostolate

Significance for the Spiritual Life of Mary's Immaculate Conception

Freedom in Holiness
  1. Mary was incapable.
  2. Yet she used her freedom.
  3. Graces of liberty
     - choosing between good and evil
     - choosing among various goods
     - choosing the better
  4. Like Mary, we are most free when we choose the better.

Supernatural Nobility

Significance for the Spiritual Life of Mary's Immaculate Conception

Growth in Sanctity
  1. Mary grew in holiness by cooperating with actual graces.
  2. WE grow in holiness as we freely choose what is more pleasing to God.

Physical Nearness of Mary to Christ was the most intimate.

Spiritual Nearness to Christ depends on physical nearness.

We become more sinless as we come closer to Christ.

Meaning: Even though she was extraordinarily gifted by grace, she recognized her dignity, but also acknowledged its divine source.

We imitate Mary as we realize our supernatural gifts, but always give God the glory.

We further imitate Mary when we use the graces we receive.