



Mary's Role

Our Year of Prayer is inspired in part by Mary. When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to announce that she was to give birth to the savior, Mary did a beautiful thing. Mary asked how? She did not ask in doubt, but in direction. "I don't know a man." She knows how children are made, but she wanted to know God's plan for how this child was to be made. So, Mary asked and waited. We know the angel's reply. Mary's response was to submit herself to God's particular plan for her and God's great plan for us all.

The Virgin Mary is the patron saint of our diocese and she is also the first disciple of Jesus Christ. As a diocese, we are taking Mary's example. We are pausing and asking, "God, how do you want us to form communities of missionary disciples?" There are a lot of great ways to form disciples out there, but each parish needs to find the particular way God is calling them and submit to that particular plan.

In addition to praying 'the prayer' for the year, the bishop is asking every family or household to pray one Marian devotion each week for the intention of God to teach our parish how to form us as a community of missionary disciples. That Marian devotion can be a litany, it can be a rosary, it can be any number of other prayers to Mary on behalf of the Church. The important part is that we engage Mary's intercession for us.

Father,

You invite each of us to share in the life and ministry of your Son, Jesus.

Send your Holy Spirit to form our parish as a community of missionary disciples. Teach us how to hear Jesus, to love Jesus, and to share your gift of salvation with everyone we meet.

Through the witness and intercession of Mary, guide me to deepen my commitment as a disciple of Jesus.

Lead our parish to grow as an intentional community, committed to go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

We ask these blessings in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen