

Being the Church: *Lumen Gentium* Book Study

Session 6 Reflection Questions

Chapter VIII: The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God in the Mystery of Christ and the Church

- I. Introduction: This section summarizes some of the Church's longstanding teachings on the Blessed Virgin Mary. In what ways is she different from the rest of creation? In what ways is she the same?
- II. The Role of the Blessed Mother in the Economy of Salvation
 - The Greek roots of the word "economy" mean "law of the house." What does the phrase "economy of salvation" mean?
 - Article 56
 - What Marian dogma does this section present?
 - What is the connection between Mary and Eve?
 - This section summarizes Mary's role in salvation history. Why do you think God gave her this role? Couldn't Jesus have completed the work of salvation on his own?
- III. On the Blessed Virgin and the Church
 - Is it appropriate to call Mary the "Mediatrice"? How would you explain this title to someone who believes it contradicts the truth proclaimed in Scripture that Christ is the one mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5-6)?
 - How is Mary the preeminent image of the Church?
 - Why should Christians meditate upon Mary's role in salvation history and cultivate a devotion to her?
- IV. The Cult of the Blessed Virgin in the Church
 - What is one of the earliest Marian devotions? How ancient is it, and what does that tell you about the place of Marian devotion in the Christian life?
 - How does devotion to Mary differ from the worship due to God alone?
 - How can theologians and preachers develop a sound understanding of the Blessed Virgin Mary?
 - What does an authentic devotion to Mary look like?

- V. Mary the sign of created hope and solace to the wandering people of God: Why is Mary a “sign of sure hope and solace to the people of God during its sojourn on earth” (*Lumen Gentium* 68)?