

How does Mary bring me closer to Jesus Christ?

FIRE INSIDE

An Edge Night on Mary

LEADER OVERVIEW

Mary is the Mother of Christ and the Mother of the Church. Her role in the Church is inseparable from her role in Jesus' life and the unity she has with Him. She was there at Pentecost, the very beginning of the Church, aiding the apostles through her prayers. She is also our ultimate example of faith and charity. She is the Mother of God "to whose protection the faithful fly in all their dangers and needs" (CCC 971). (CCC 963-971)

At the end of her earthly life, Mary was taken up into heaven — both her body and her soul — in what is called the Assumption. Upon her entrance into heaven with her beloved Son, she was crowned the Queen of Heaven and from there she continues to pray for us and bring us to the gift of salvation. (CCC 963-969)

Devotion to Mary is a part of the Christian life. Mary is honored with special devotion that is not equal to but upholds the devotion to the Trinity. She is honored with different liturgical feasts and Marian prayers that can aid in our devotion to her. (CCC 971)

Mary is also the perfect example of prayer. We are called to invite her into our homes and our lives just like the first disciples did. We can pray with her and ask her for her intercession. One way we can do this is through praying the Hail Mary or a rosary, which reveals the mystery of Christ and Mary, the Mother of God. The prayer "of the Church is sustained by the prayer of Mary and united with it in hope" (CCC 2679). (CCC 2673-2679)

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EDGE NIGHT OVERVIEW

GOAL

The goal of this Edge Night is for the youth to learn more about Mary and encourage their devotion to the Blessed Mother.

SUMMARY

The Edge Night begins with a Gather where the youth learn more about St. Maximilian Kolbe and then play a scavenger hunt game to find different Marian images. The Proclaim explores Mary's relationship with the Holy Spirit. Small groups pray a decade of the rosary while reflecting on the joyful mysteries as a scriptural rosary during the Break, and the Send encourages the youth to continue meditating on those Scripture passages.

MAIN IDEAS

- Mary's perfection should not alienate us because Mary wants us to share in her perfect connection to the Holy Spirit.
- When Mary said, "yes" to being Jesus' mother, she said, "yes" to being our mother too. She has been a mother for the Church.
- Everything Mary experienced, good or bad, she pondered in her heart with the Spirit. One step toward being like Mary is to offer our experiences to the Holy Spirit like she did.

ENVIRONMENT

Create a Marian shrine. Bring in a Mary statue, icon, or painting and surround it with flowers and candles. To touch on the "Fire Inside" theme, use red, yellow, and orange streamers to decorate the Marian shrine as well.



SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:48; Luke 1:46-49, 2:19



CATECHISM

963-969, 971, 2673-2679

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EDGE NIGHT OUTLINE

GATHER

Edge Night Introduction (5 min)

Welcome the youth and introduce any youth who are there for the first time. Give a brief overview of the topic of the Edge Night using the following as an example:

The idea of perfection can seem intimidating or make us feel bad when we fall short. Because of the special grace of the Holy Spirit inside her, the Blessed Mother was perfect, but her perfection should never stop us from loving her. Mary has always been there for us, the Church, and when we open our hearts to her and the Spirit, we learn to love God more perfectly as she did.

Begin in prayer by using the *Come Holy Spirit* projection found on the *August 2018 Edge USB* and online at lifeteen.com under Edge Support: *August 2018* for the youth to follow along.

Saint Maximilian Kolbe (5 min)

Use the following information to share three fun facts about St. Maximilian Kolbe and the work he did to teach others about the Holy Spirit.

Fun Facts

1. Growing up, St. Maximilian Kolbe was great at STEM subjects and wanted to be in the military, but he decided to become a priest instead.
2. He had such a close relationship with the Blessed Mother that she once appeared to him when he was a kid.
3. Saint Maximilian Kolbe is best known for his heroic death. When he was a prisoner in a concentration camp, he volunteered to take the place of an innocent man whom the Nazis had sentenced to death.

Teaching on the Holy Spirit

Saint Maximilian Kolbe's deep bond with Mary enabled him to describe her relationship with the Holy Spirit in a new, insightful way for the Church. He explained that Mary is on fire for the Holy Spirit and that she has the closest relationship with the Holy Spirit of any other human being. He wrote, "In the Holy Spirit's union with Mary we observe more than the love of two beings... In this union heaven and earth are joined... It is truly the summit of love."

Marian Scavenger Hunt (15 min)

Before the Edge Night, identify Marian images present in your Edge meeting space or church. Create a scavenger hunt list of those Marian images.

1. Divide the youth into small groups.
2. Give each group a scavenger hunt list with clues based off of the Marian images you have available.
3. Send groups to find all of the Marian images on the scavenger hunt list.
4. Provide a prize for the group who finishes first.



SUGGESTIONS

If your Edge meeting space does not have many or any images of Mary or you are unable to go into your church, print out Marian images and symbols and place them around your space. To honor the diversity of the group, consider including images of Mary from around the world (such as Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of La Vang, Our Lady of Knock, and Our Lady of Fatima).



STEP IT UP

Make this a photo scavenger hunt. Designate one youth or Core Member to take photos of the team. Beforehand, set up a way to easily share and project the photos so you can share them with everyone at the end.

PROCLAIM

“Fire Inside” Teaching (10 min)

This teaching can be found on pages 114 to 116.

BREAK

• 6th Grade

- Mary is the first disciple and a role model for a life of faith. What do you learn about faith from her example?
- Mary’s job was to point to Jesus and bring us closer to Him. How does she do this?
- Jesus was the Son of God because He was conceived in Mary through the power of the Holy Spirit.

• 7th Grade

- Mary had free will but choose to cooperate with God’s plan by saying yes and unconditionally become the Mother of God. Do you sometimes make conditions with God? What can we learn from Mary about doing that?
- Mary is called Theotokos which literally translated means “God bearer” the one who gives birth to God.

• 8th Grade

- Mary is really the Mother of God because Jesus’ natures cannot be divided.
- The words Mary responds to God in the Annunciation have become a prayer in the Church called the Magnificat. Can you find this on your phone and pray it together? What do you think it means?

Scriptural Rosary (20 min)

Together in small groups, pray one decade of the joyful mysteries of the rosary and read an accompanying scriptural reflection for that mystery. After leading the decade for their small groups, instruct the Core Members to ask each youth to share what stood out to them in the

prayer.

To lead the youth in this time of prayer, use the *Joyful Mysteries* projection found on the *August 2018 Edge USB* and online at lifeteen.com under Edge Support: *August 2018*.



SUGGESTIONS

Instead of the Core Members leading the decade, allow the youth to participate by reading a Scripture verse or leading a prayer. Before doing this, make sure the youth know how to pray the rosary and are comfortable leading the prayers. If you can, provide the youth with rosaries they can take home with them!



STEP IT UP

Combine this decade of the scriptural rosary with *lectio divina*. Before praying the decade, have a Core Member read all of the verses from the decade while the youth close their eyes and listen. After praying the decade, have the Core Member read all of the verses again while the youth listen.



SUGGESTIONS

Many Hispanic youth learned these and other basic prayers in Spanish. Consider projecting the text of the Hail Mary in English so youth who don't have it memorized in English can still pray in unity with the group.

SEND

Like Mary (20 min)

Bring the small groups together in front of the Marian shrine. If you would like, invite each group to share one verse from the scriptural rosary that struck them in their discussions.

Remind the youth that being like Mary requires taking the experiences the Holy Spirit gives you and holding them in your heart. Tell them to keep the verse that stuck out to them in their hearts and minds and challenge them to sit in silence for five to ten minutes, knowing the Holy Spirit is saying something to them.

Close by leading the youth in a prayer to the Blessed Mother.



STEP IT UP

Lead the youth in Marian hymns instead of having them sit in silence.

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TEACHING GUIDE

GETTING STARTED

To cover the basic information, follow along and craft the talk based off of the bullet points. If your youth are ready to take it deeper, start incorporating a few of the Going Deeper call out boxes by picking the ones your youth would relate to the most.



GOING DEEPER

Check inside these boxes for tips and ideas on how to take your youth a little deeper with the Proclaim.

SHEER PERFECTION

- Have the youth think about a person — from someone in their everyday lives to a celebrity — who seems “perfect” to them. Ask them why they would consider this person to be perfect.
- It is easy to observe others’ lives from the outside and think they have it all together. Their seeming perfection can make them seem fake and might make us feel jealous or intimidated.
- But those people are not perfect. Just like the rest of us, they are flawed human beings and their lives have difficulties.
- As Catholics, we know there is one human being who truly was perfect — Jesus’ mother, Mary.



GOING DEEPER

Explain that Mary and Jesus are both fully human and perfect but the sources of their perfection are different. Mary is perfect from being preemptively saved by God from original sin while Jesus is perfect because He is also fully God.

- Sometimes Mary’s perfection can feel intimidating. We may think she is unrelatable or feel discouraged because we cannot be as good as her. That is the total opposite of how Mary wants us to relate to her.
- *Project Matthew 5:48.*
- Mary’s perfection comes from God’s grace — the fire of the Holy Spirit burning in her heart and blazing through her actions. Mary loves us. She wants all of us to achieve perfection too — being constantly on fire with God’s love.



GOING DEEPER

Looking to mystic saints (e.g., St. Teresa of Avila), describe how a person can be so perfectly connected to God that they are almost experiencing the joys of heaven while on Earth.

“YES” QUEEN

- With the love of the Holy Spirit inside her, Mary said, “yes” to becoming Jesus’ mother and, “yes” to all of God’s people. She is both the Mother of Christ and the Mother of the Church. (CCC 963-964, 968, 2674)
- *Project an image of Pentecost by Jean II Restout.*
- Mary has been there for us throughout all of Church history. During Christ’s life, Mary followed Jesus and led others to Him. After Jesus’ Resurrection and Ascension, she remained with the apostles as they began to spread the Gospel. (CCC 964-965)
- In all she did, Mary listened to the Spirit in her heart. She was and is a perfect model of faith. For example, when she was told her Son would suffer and she would too, she did not give up her faith in God. (Luke 2:35)
- She also followed the Spirit by her actions. She was and is a perfect model of charity. For example, she said, “yes” to bearing Jesus as her Son not knowing how it would all work out, but trusting it was for the greater good of humanity. (Luke 1:38)
- Her perfect union with the Holy Spirit makes her a totally unique member of the Church, an example all Christians should follow. (CCC 967)
- *Project an image of the Coronation of the Virgin by Diego Velázquez.*
- Through the grace of the Holy Spirit, Mary did not die but went to heaven, body, and soul. Catholics call this the Assumption. But even after leaving Earth, Mary continues to care for us. (CCC 966, 969)
- Mary is the Queen of Heaven. In heaven she constantly brings our needs and intentions to her Son. She also shares the Spirit’s graces with us as we go through our daily lives. (CCC 969)
- As queen, Mary has been given great power by God. If we go to her, she will protect us in the face of danger and evil. If we ask her, she will pray for all of our needs. We should never underestimate Mary’s love and care for us. (CCC 971)



GOING DEEPER

Share about different Marian apparitions as further examples of Mary’s continued care for the Church. For example, her apparition at Lourdes shows her care for the healing of the people of the Church, her apparition at Guadalupe shows her desire for continued conversion, and her apparition in Fatima shows her loving maternal concern for our eternal destination.

IN HER HEART

- We know Mary is perfect. We know her life is a beautiful example for us. We know that she continues to care for us as Queen of Heaven. But what can we do to be perfect like her?

- The Church gives us many beautiful ways to celebrate, imitate, and pray with Mary. One great example is the Hail Mary. It is an easy prayer that contains so many important, Biblical insights about the Blessed Mother. (CCC 971, 2675-2677)
- Soon we will pray a decade of the rosary in small groups. The rosary is another way the Church helps us pray with and for the intercession of Mary. In praying the rosary, we meditate on Jesus' life through Mary's eyes. (CCC 971, 2678)
- We also celebrate Mary with liturgical feasts, which are special days set aside by the Church to remember important parts of Mary's life. Some are holy days of obligation, where we go to Mass to celebrate Mary. Learning these liturgical feast days and celebrating them with your family is a great way to remember the Blessed Mother year-round. (CCC 971)
- The Hail Mary, the rosary, and Marian liturgical feasts are just the beginning. The Church provides so many ways for us to celebrate the Blessed Mother. But if we really want to understand Mary and be perfect like her, there is something deeper we must do.
- *Project Luke 2:19.*
- This verse is the key to following Mary's perfection. Mary took every experience she had, held it in her heart, and looked at it with the Holy Spirit's eyes. That is the fire inside Mary — living every single moment with and through the Spirit.
- That is what prayer is — communication with God. And Mary is great at it; she is the perfect pray-er, constantly keeping the Spirit in the forefront of her mind and heart. (CCC 2673, 2679)
- This is easier said than done, but this is the perfection Mary wants us to share in. As we pray more, we learn to pray better. As we pray better, we learn to act better.
- The Holy Spirit wants to start a fire inside of you; He wants to say something to you. The best response is what Mary did — take everything going on in your life, hold it in your heart, and look and listen for the Holy Spirit's call.

THE THIRD JOYFUL MYSTERY: THE NATIVITY

Our Father...

1. And while [Mary and Joseph] were [in Bethlehem] the time came for her to be delivered. (Lk 2:6) *Hail Mary... (Repeat after each)*
2. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes. (Lk 2:7)
3. And [she] laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (Lk 2:7)
4. And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. (Lk 2:8-9)
5. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you news of a great joy which will come to all the people." (Lk 2:10)
6. "For to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Lk 2:11)
7. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!" (Lk 2:14)
8. And going into the house [the Wise Men] saw the child with Mary his mother. (Mt 2:1, 11)
9. And they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. (Mt 2:11)
10. But Mary kept all these things pondering them in her heart. (Lk 2:19)

Glory Be (Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.)

Fatima Prayer (Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy.)



JOYFUL MYSTERIES PROJECTION

Project this image for the youth to follow along with during the Break as they pray a scriptural rosary. This projection can be found on the *August 2018 Edge USB* and online at lifeteen.com under Edge Support: *August 2018*.