

Mary, the Mother of God (*Theotokos*) Octave of Christmas (Year ABC)

Galatians 4:4-7—God Sent His Son

⁴ But when the time had fully come, *God sent forth his Son, born of woman*, (Greek *genomenon ek gunaikos*) born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive *adoption as sons*. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷ So through God you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then an heir. (Galatians 4:4-7)

Living Tradition

Cyril of Jerusalem: Notice how precise the Gospel is when it says: “In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God, to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph” (Luke 1:26-27), and so forth... Indeed, God—says Paul—sent his Son, *not born of a man and a woman, but of a woman* (cf. Gal 4:4) *only*, that is, of a virgin... (Cyril of Jerusalem, *Catecheses* 12.31)¹

Catechism: Mary’s virginity manifests God’s absolute initiative in the Incarnation. Jesus has only God as Father. “He was never estranged from the Father because of the human nature which he assumed... He is naturally Son of the Father as to his divinity and naturally son of his mother as to his humanity, but properly Son of the Father in both natures.” (CCC 503)

Questions for Discussion and Reflection (Mary, Mother of God, Year ABC)

1. Why does Paul say that God’s “Son” was “born of a woman” (Gal 4:6)? Isn’t that kind of redundant?

For Further Reading

1. Catechism: Mary as Mother of God (CCC 466, 495)
2. Benedict XVI, Homily, 1st January 2008 (available at http://w2.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/homilies/2008/documents/hf_ben-xvi_hom_20080101_world-day-peace.html)
3. Brant Pitre, *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary: Unveiling the Mother of the Messiah*. New York: Image, 2018.

¹ In Gambero, *Mary and the Fathers of the Church*, 140.