

A Mother's Look at the Hail Mary

Hail Mary -

Hi Mary, here I am again. I finally have a moment to myself and I need to talk to someone who understands. Who better than you?

Full of grace -

Once, Mary, I thought this made you untouchable, far removed from my own life. You were seen as one so perfect that I could neither relate to you nor hope to imitate you. But now, childishness put aside, I know you needed God's graces just as I do. It was your asking His help that made you holy. And now, as I go to Him, who knows, maybe I, too, can follow in your footsteps?

The Lord is with you -

Surely you turned to God, asking him to help you through the nitty gritty of daily life. It's reassuring to finally realize that you had those days like I have, days when everything seems to go wrong. I had never envisioned you as not having the time to get the work done, things breaking, or visitors coming when the house was a disaster! Nor did I think your day was ever so hectic that your prayer amounted to a quick "Help me through this day, Lord", or a short psalm. If He helped you, won't He also help me?

Blessed are you among women -

Yes, you are closer to Him than any other, but that shouldn't put you so far and remote from me! It won't be easy, but I'll try to rid myself of that pristine statue image I have of you that I grew up with. It's taken me so long to see you were real and walked this earth just as I do. You, too, struggled to understand and wondered why these things were happening. But you accepted also, and trusted in God's plan. Maybe someday I can become more like you in that way.

And blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus -

Thanks, Mary, for saying yes, even when you had no idea of all you were saying yes to! How often I think of you now when I want to control my own life. I hadn't planned on all the twists and turns my life has taken; the moves, death, job changes and pressures of them, and too, these "extra" unexpected kids. I've had to put a lot of things on hold as I watch the family change and grow. But this wondrous event brought many changes to your life too. Your "yes" gives me a hope that I too, will live through it all. Could this be my path to holiness?

Holy Mary -

I still have trouble thinking I could ever be holy. You were one of the chosen few to be so close to Jesus. We talk about His humanity, but yours has been so terribly

overlooked. By rethinking you, I now have new hope! (I'll never look at a Christmas card in the same way again!) It is within my reach to emulate your life on earth, and I can still revere your holy place in heaven. Will I ever be able to fully change these old attitudes?

Mother of God -

What an awesome task! God placed in your hands His one and only. He placed six in mine! My task, too, is pretty awesome. How often I've heard that God doesn't give the responsibility without also giving the graces you need. I will never forget that early morning talk with Him (my usual free time – 2:00am!) And as is my habit, I did all the talking, bombarding Him with questions. How He calmed each fear! I was shocked to realize these are **not** my kids; but His- on loan to me, to be returned to Him! My task is to entrust them (and myself) to His care! Mary, do you understand how awed and unworthy I feel?

Pray for us sinners -

Some will never understand this, going through you to Jesus. I didn't always do this. But you gave us one reason at Cana, and He gave us reason at the cross, making you mother of us all. I like thinking of you as “mother.” I'm so glad to discover this side of you now, to see us as mothers in common. It's easier to turn to you with my frustrations, fears, worries and tears. In turning more readily to you, I turn more readily to your Son. What a privilege! Will you help me to treasure all these things and reflect on them in my heart, Mary?

And at the hour of our death -

Mary, it's overwhelming, to think you will greet me when this old body dies. Because of the love I've had for your Joseph (the forgotten Saint), I'd always hoped that he would lead me across that threshold. To think you too would be with me as I face your Son, is overwhelming! Thank you, Mary, for being with me on my journey, and so patiently awaiting my coming to know you better. Thank you, for being fully human and real, and for helping me to see. Thank you for giving me hope.

Amen -

So be it. I think I'm on my way now, lucky to be living in these times, no matter how difficult they may be. I still have my doubts and questions, but I feel like I'm setting out on a new journey with you as my guide. If I can retain all I've learned about you, I will make it. Thank you, Mary, and please continue to help me.