



DEVOTION: May Crowning of Mary

HISTORY & BACKGROUND: The month of May is dedicated to Mary, and Catholics have long honored the Blessed Mother by placing a crown on her image. Crowning a statue of the Lord's Mother is symbolic of the honor we give her as the one chosen by God to bear His Son, our Salvation.

Mary is Queen of heaven and earth because she was the perfect follower of Christ, who is the absolute "crown" of creation. She is the Mother of the Son of God, who is the messianic King. She remained steadfast in devotion to her Son, all the way to the foot of the Cross. After the Ascension, she persevered in prayer with the Church. She truly has won the "crown of righteousness", the "crown of life", and the "crown of glory" promised to those who follow Christ.

The tradition of crowning images was commonplace in the Eastern Church. A blessed crown was frequently used to adorn icons in churches to add additional splendor.

TIME REQUIRED: can be tailored to meet any time requirement, an extra 15 min. during a Mass or as a separate activity lasting 30 min to 1 hour.

SUPPLIES NEEDED: Mary statue, flowers, hymnals

SET UP: It's traditional to have a May crowning on May 1 (also known as May Day) but you can do it any time during May. Make sure you have or make a crown that will fit *your* particular statue. It's traditional to crown Mary with flowers of some kind. Take the statue's placement into consideration when planning. If you're crowning the Mary statue at your church, you may need a step ladder to reach her head.

You can ask all the families attending the May Crowning to bring flowers for Mary. These can be hand-picked, store bought, or artificial. Alternately, you could provide flowers there and give one to each person to offer to Our Lady. These flowers will be placed at Mary's feet. You can either provide a vase for these flowers, or just lay them individually at the base of the statue.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Place a statue of Mary on a pedestal.
2. Sing a hymn honoring Mary.
3. Read a Scripture passage about Mary such as Luke 1:26-38 (the Annunciation); Luke 1:39-45 (the Visitation); Luke 2:6-12 (the Nativity); Luke 2:41-50 (the boy Jesus in the Temple); John 2:1-12 (the wedding feast at Cana); Luke 23:27-29 (Mary meets Jesus carrying his cross); John 19:25-30 (Mary at the foot of the cross).
4. Offer a brief reflection on the role of Mary as the first disciple.
5. Walk in procession with the crown while singing or playing a Marian hymn.
6. Place a garland of flowers on the head of the statue.
7. All participants carrying flowers will place them at Mary's feet as they reach the statue.
8. Pray the *Hail Mary*, the *Hail, Holy Queen*, or the *Memorare*



...to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace...Romans 8:6