



The Blessed Virgin Mary as Co-Redemptrix

A Brief Catechesis

What does “Co-Redemptrix” mean?

The title *Co-Redemptrix* refers to the unique role of the Blessed Virgin Mary in cooperating with the redemption accomplished by Jesus Christ. The prefix *co-* does not mean “equal,” but “with.” Christ alone is the Redeemer. Mary participates in His work in a subordinate and dependent way.

Christ Alone Redeems

The redemption of the world is accomplished solely by Jesus Christ, true God and true man. His sacrifice on the Cross is sufficient and complete. No creature can add to or replace His saving work.

Mary's Unique Cooperation

From the Annunciation to Calvary, the Blessed Virgin freely cooperated in God's plan:

- At the Annunciation, she consented: *"Be it done unto me according to thy word."*
- She gave Christ His human nature — the Body that would be offered for our salvation.
- At the Cross, she stood beneath her Son, united to His suffering and consenting to His sacrifice.

In this way, she shared uniquely — as Mother — in the offering of the Redeemer.

Not Equal, But United

Mary is not a redeemer alongside Christ. She does not act independently of Him. Her role is entirely dependent upon His. Yet her cooperation is singular and cannot be compared to that of any other saint.

Mother of Sorrows — Mother of the Redeemed

Because she shared in the sufferings of Christ, she is honored as **Our Lady of Sorrows**. Because she cooperated in His saving work, she is also our spiritual mother, caring for the souls redeemed by her Son.

What This Means for Us

The Blessed Virgin teaches us how to unite our lives to Christ:

- to accept God's will with trust,
- to remain faithful in suffering,
- to offer our trials in union with the Cross.

In this way, we too — in a lesser but real sense — are called to cooperate with Christ in the work of salvation.

A Simple Prayer

O Mary, Mother of Sorrows,
teach us to stand beneath the Cross,
to unite our sufferings to thy Son,
and to remain faithful in all things. Amen.