

Today we celebrate The Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Many Catholics think because of its closeness to Christmas, this Feast is about the conception of Jesus.

But, the Immaculate Conception refers to the special way in which the Virgin Mary herself was conceived. Mary's conception was special and unique--- "Full of Grace" by God himself. From among the descendants of Eve, God chose the Virgin Mary to be the mother of his Son. From the first instant of her conception, Mary was upheld from the stain of original sin and she remained pure from all personal sin throughout her life.

Mary said, "Yes" when asked to be the mother of God's only son. She is a model of complete faith and obedience. Throughout the stages of my life, especially as a mother, my relationships with my children change. I am aware of how my role as a mother has changed over the toddler years, teenage years, and now with one in college. I reflect often of Mary and her relationship with Jesus. What a special and unique connection the two of them share, knowing they were living according to God's will, and staying faithful and obedient to the plans God had for their lives.

Mary is the perfect model to guide us with relationships, to help us willingly accept God's, and to help us obtain that deep personal connection with Him. Following Mary's example of complete obedience, we too can trust God and what His plan is for us. "May it be done according to Your word."