

planet and star up to the nine choirs of angels; from the soul of Adam to the soul of Christ, from all the gifts of genius to all the endowments of grace and sanctity, He determined to stop at a limit; the limit was to be a creature containing all the perfections of inferior creatures and special perfections exclusively her own; a limit beyond which he would not go and could not go, limit in which His omnipotence would, so to speak, exhaust itself. This fixed limit was Mary. In accidentals a greater being God could create, but in dignity He has not made her equal. She is the Mother of His Eternal Son; the Mother of God; and beyond that honor we can conceive no higher. She is therefore "Theotokos," as the Council of Nicea called her, "Mother of God;" and this title is the source and fountain of all the glorious titles in the Litany and the primary cause of all the devotion to her in the Christian World.

Devotion is love, or rather, the product of love, and devotion to Mary is the consequence of the love of her divine Son for her and of her love for Him, and of her personal graces and virtues. She is inseparable from her Son. In the concrete one has to do violence to himself to think of her as separate from Him.