

Life, Our Sweetness and Our Hope," "Mother of Mercy" "Refuge of Sinners," "Queen of Heaven," but what are all these titles to that one name, Mother of God? What homage, what dignity, what reverence in that title, Mary Mother of God? And Mary is the Mother of God; the Bible tells us so. That child born of her and foretold in this chapter was the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity made man. He who does not believe this is not a Christian; whatever else he may be, he is not a Christian. For the fundamental doctrine of Christianity is that God the Son became man; that in Him were two natures; that He came down from heaven and took not a human personality, but a human nature, and raised it to consort with the divine nature, supported by the divine person. Mary is the woman who brought that person into the world. No woman is the mother of anything save a person. My mother is not the mother of my body, nor is she the mother of my soul; she is the mother of the person who is speaking to you. In the 4th century the Fathers of the council of Ephesus, because the honour paid to Mary as Mother of God had been questioned, declared it to be a doctrine of Christian faith that Mary was the Mother of God.

"My soul doth magnify the Lord," exclaimed Mary. Magnify means to make greater. What a startling expression on the lips of her who but a moment before had declared that the Lord had regarded the humility of his handmaid. But Mary did make the Lord greater. If the heavens are telling the glory of God, if all creatures proclaim the greatness of the Creator, then must she who was the masterpiece of God's creative power in a manner all her own magnify the Lord. She alone reaches the highest sanctity of created beings, she alone is the Mother of the Saviour. And Mary adds, when speaking to her cousin—with unbearable forwardness if the words are not true,—“And, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.” Do all generations call her blessed? Was it calling her blessed to attack the position given her by the Catholic Church? To say that she has no place in the Word of God? We Catholics have always maintained her in that place which the Bible gives her; we have contended and will contend to the end of time, for the glory, the dignity and the divine maternity of Mary, and for all the truths connected therewith. Do those who assail these truths call her blessed? If not, how can they face the Bible? What right have they to appeal to the Bible? They belie the Bible. The man who dares to speak one word against the Mother of Jesus had better tear the Bible to pieces and burn it. The only generation that has always called her