

**HOW DID THE EARLY CHURCHES WORSHIP? WHAT WERE THEIR BELIEFS ABOUT MARY?**

*How did the early churches conduct their worship services as they spread throughout the world? What documents did they rely on prior to the canonization of the Books of the Bible in 325? How did they conduct their worship services in the medieval times—the time of St. Dominic—over a 100 years after the Great Schism of 1054 when the Church suffered its first major breakup? How did the many Churches practice their worship services as each successive Church left the Apostolic Church?*

**THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH** was made up of Jewish people, who had worshiped in synagogues all of their life and participated in the **Sacrifice of the Altar**—the ritual (Rite) of confessing their sins and offering the blood of a lamb as an atonement for them (Lev. 16). They sang hymns, read Psalms and the Old Testament, along with the Prophets, and were taught lessons, and collected alms. When the early Church began, their understanding of the **Sacrifice of the Altar** and traditions of the worship service were carried with them. The early Church of converted Jews understood that Jesus was the **Sacrifice of the Altar** in the New Testament, now represented in the **Holy Eucharist** not our alm\$. The Apostolic Church worship service existed solely to worship Jesus the way He commanded them in the **Holy Eucharist**, remembering the Lamb Who had **offered** His Life as a **sacrifice** for their sins.

The earliest written *Liturgy* or *Rite* for the ordering of the Church worship service of the **Eucharist** is found in the *Didache* or *The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* (1st–2nd century). It contains 16 articles of Christian beliefs with instructions on the worship of the **Eucharist**. As Church zeal spread, elaborate Liturgies developed for the **Eucharistic Rite**. In order to preserve both uniformity and legality, an authoritative Rite or Canon law was written. It is believed that a parent document existed and was used commonly for writing the various Liturgies. Dominic wrote a Liturgy based on an earlier writing known as the Roman Rite, both are still in use. Liturgical Rites are found in the Catholic Missal, Orthodox Euchologion, The Luthern Liturgy, and the Anglican (Episcopal) Book of Common Prayer.

**THE DIDACHE:** 14:1 ON THE LORD'S DAY, **GATHER TOGETHER** AND **BREAK BREAD**, GIVE THANKS, BUT **FIRST CONFESS YOUR SINS** SO THAT YOUR **SACRIFICE** MAY BE PURE. 9 CONCERNING THE **EUCCHARIST**, GIVE THANKS THIS WAY. **FIRST**, CONCERNING THE **CUP**: WE THANK YOU, OUR FATHER, FOR THE HOLY VINE OF DAVID YOUR SERVANT, WHICH YOU MADE KNOWN TO US THROUGH JESUS YOUR SERVANT. TO YOU BE GLORY FOREVER. **NEXT**, CONCERNING THE **BROKEN BREAD**: WE THANK YOU, OUR FATHER, FOR THE LIFE AND KNOWLEDGE WHICH YOU MADE KNOWN TO US THROUGH JESUS YOUR SERVANT. TO YOU BE THE GLORY FOREVER. **EVEN AS THIS BROKEN BREAD** WAS SCATTERED OVER THE HILLS, AND WAS **GATHERED TOGETHER** AND **BECAME ONE**, SO LET YOUR **CHURCH** BE **GATHERED TOGETHER** FROM THE ENDS OF THE EARTH INTO YOUR KINGDOM. TO YOU IS THE GLORY AND THE POWER THROUGH JESUS CHRIST FOREVER.



**What did the early Churches believe about Mary, the Mother of God?** Traditionally, the Catholic or Apostolic Church believed that Mary was conceived immaculately (free of original sin), remained a virgin perpetually, and was assumed bodily into heaven. She is the mother of the Church and is thus considered an object of devotion. The Great Schism of 1054 resulted in the formation of the Orthodox Church. They believe that **SO POWERFUL** were the **FERTILIZING WORDS** of the impregnation of the Virgin—**THE ANGELIC SALUTATION**—that it was at that moment she was cleansed from sin. She remained perpetually a virgin and was assumed bodily into heaven. The next great division of the Apostolic Church occurred in 1517 when Martin Luther began the Protestant Reformation. Some members accept Mary's immaculate conception but not other doctrines about Mary. The next division occurred in 1534 with the formation of the Anglican Church (Episcopal). Members are free to accept or reject the Catholic doctrines of Mary. In the many successive divisions of the Church, the Liturgical Rites and the doctrines of Mary have mostly disappeared, opening the way to here\$ie\$ (666/card 1).

**"THE POWERFUL WORD BECAME FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US!" (JN. 1:4)**

**OUR LADY DECLARED: "I AM THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION" in 1858 in Lourdes, France/card 4**

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EUCCHARIST COMES FROM THE GREEK WORD FOR "GIVING THANKS."

**Card 36: The Angelic Psalter of Jesus and Mary—The Rosary**

**St. Dominic—The Burning Light of the Church and Apostle of Our Lady**

**THE ANGELIC SALUTATION  THE SALUTE OF ANGELS!  
God's Fertilizing Rain—The Hail Mary**

**THE EUCHARISTIC SERVICE OF THE EARLY CHURCH**

**OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY NAME; THY KINGDOM COME; THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN. GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD! AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES, AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US; AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION BUT DELIVER US FROM ALL EVIL. AMEN!**  
(Mt. 6: 9–13)

**DOMINIC's** mom had a dream that she bore a son who would become a shining light to the Church. In a second dream a dog leapt from her womb, carrying a burning torch in its mouth by which it set fire to the world. In a third dream she saw a very bright star on her infant son's forehead that enlightened the world.



**OUR LADY** SAID TO DOMINIC, "WONDER NOT THAT YOU HAVE OBTAINED SO LITTLE FRUIT BY YOUR LABORS, YOU HAVE SPENT THEM ON **BARREN SOIL**, NOT YET WATERED WITH THE **DEW OF DIVINE GRACE**. WHEN GOD WILLED TO RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH (CHRIST'S BIRTH), HE BEGAN BY SENDING DOWN ON IT THE **FERTILIZING RAIN** OF THE ANGELIC SALUTATION (HAIL MARY). **PREACH (PRAY) MY PSALTER OF 150 ANGELIC SALUTATIONS AND 15 OUR FATHERS**, AND YOU WILL OBTAIN AN ABUNDANT HARVEST!"

**OUR LADY** came to Dominic when he prayed in despair over those he labored fruitlessly to convert who had fallen into gross sin through heretical doctrines. Our Lady taught him a new way to pray: preach a point of the **GOSPEL**, pray an **OUR FATHER**, and then pray **10 ANGELIC SALUTATIONS** to obtain a fruitful harvest.

**THE ANGELIC SALUTATION WORDS OF THE IMPREGNATION**  
**LUKE 1: THE ARCHANGEL GABRIEL SALUTED MARY WHEN HE CAME TO PRO- NOUNCED THE HOLY SPIRIT'S IMPREGNATION OF HER:**  
**HAIL MARY, FULL OF GRACE; THE LORD IS WITH THEE; BLESSED ART THOU AMONG WOMEN!  ... YOU SHALL CONCEIVE IN YOUR WOMB, AND BRING FORTH A SON NAMED Jesus!**  
LATER, ELIZABETH SHOUTED: **BLESSED IS THE FRUITFUL HARVEST OF THY WOMB— JESUS BORN IN US!**




**OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY** HAS BEEN CALLING THE WORLD TO PRAY HER **PSALTER** SINCE 1208. SHE IS STILL CALLING TODAY FROM **MEDJUGORJE!** (CARD 15)

**"DEAR CHILDREN, I CALL YOU: LIVE YOUR VOCATION (CALL) IN PRAYER!** Now, as never before, Satan wants to suffocate man and his soul by his contagious wind of hatred and unrest. In many hearts there is no joy because there is no God or prayer. Hatred and war are growing from day to day. I am **CALLING** you, little children, begin anew, with enthusiasm, the walk of **holiness** and **love**; since **I have come among** you because of this. Together let us be **love** and **forgiveness** for all those who know and want to love only with a human love and not with that immeasurable love of God to which God **CALLS** you. Little children, may hope in a better tomorrow always be in your hearts. Thank you for having responded to **MY CALL**" (Med. 1/25/15).



**ST. DOMINIC—THE BURNING LIGHT OF THE CHURCH AND APOSTLE OF OUR LADY**  
**Our Lady was Among Early Church Fathers—Our Lady is Among Us!**

**DOMINIC GUZMAN** (1170–1221), founder of the Dominican Order, was born in Spain. His father, Don Felix de Guzman, was the royal warden of his village; and his mother, the Blessed Joan of Aza, was barren and prayed for a son. Dominic loved to study and at the age of 14 attended the Catholic university at Osma. Known for his works of charity and love for others, one day he sacrificed his prized collection of religious books inscribed on parchment to obtain money for some poor people. He said, “I could not bear to prize dead skins when living skins were starving and in need.”

 Dominic loved to celebrate the **Eucharist**, his call to work for heaven was so evident that he was appointed canon regular, assisting in the **Eucharistic worship service (Mass)** and with Church governance. When he founded the Dominican Order, he wrote the **Dominican Rite** to make the **Mass Liturgy** more proficient. Dominic graduated with a degree in liberal arts and sacred sciences and was ordained a priest at age 25. He lived in a monastery governed by Prior Diego under the strict observance of the Rule of St. Augustine—living a life in common as the apostles, renouncing all property, and answering to a higher call of prayer, sacrifice, and obedience. Dominic strived for holiness, frequenting the church day and night, and soon was made subprior. After leading the life of contemplation, prayer, and celebration of the **Holy Eucharist** for six years, Dominic became prior, charged with the full governance of the order, and Prior Diego became bishop of Osma.

**MARY IS CALLING THE CHURCH TO LEAD THE CONTEMPLATIVE LIFE FOR 4 YEARS AND PRAY 3 TO 4 HOURS DAILY. (CARD 17)**

**THE ALBIGENSIAN HERESY** was a form of Christian-paganism based on an earlier intellectual cult known as Manichaeism (Gnostic, Catharists). It began in Persia (Iran) in the third century and had re-emerged, spreading throughout the Catholic Church in Europe. It had degenerated into an oppressive, promiscuous cult, denying the basic truths of the Gospel. It was like a contagious wind, suffocating mens' souls. Pope Innocent III sent Bishop Diego and Dominic into Albi in Southern France to convert the heretics. When they arrived, they had to rebuke the missionaries there, who were far from saintly, living indulgent lives. Hatred and unrest were growing from day to day. Diego and Dominic tried to persuade the missionaries to use peaceful means of conversion rather than threats. The heresy was supported by many spiritual and temporal leaders in France. In despair, Bishop Diego gave up and returned to Spain. The pope sent a legate to try to use diplomatic persuasions, but the Albigensians murdered him. In 1208, Pope Innocent called on all Christian princes to suppress the heresy by force. The Catholic forces were led by Simon de Montfort, who left behind him death and destruction. Vice, disorder, plunder, and ignorance ran rampant among his troops.

**THE ROSARY:** Dominic had no part in this civil war. Attempts were made on his life; but he did not give up preaching God's love and forgiveness, seeking the good of those who hated him. In despair, he withdrew and poured out his heart to Jesus and Mary with fasting, prayer, and offering penance for the peoples' sins. Our Lady, who sees all hearts, came to him and asked him to be an apostle of her Psalter (Rosary). She gave him simple instructions to preach a point of the Gospel, followed by an Our Father, and then 10 Angelic Salutations (Hail Marys) until a total of 15 points of the Gospel were interspersed with 15 Our Fathers and 150 Angelic Salutations. She told him that it was the **“weapon the Blessed Trinity wants to use to reform the world,”** and that, **“in this kind of warfare,**

**How many times do we need to pray for grace for ourself and others? Are angels counting our prayers? A PSALTER** was an early Church practice of reciting the 150 Psalms to obtain grace, using prayer beads. It was also popular to pray 150 Our Fathers, especially for those who did not have access to the Psalms. Our Lady is making use of this tradition. Today the Rosary of 50+ beads is recited three times (card 6). It was first called the Psalter of Jesus and Mary; but the people began calling it her Rosary. Each time a Rosary is recited, a crown of roses is placed on the heads of Jesus and Mary, which are counted as heavenly flowers of our unfading prayers.

the principal weapon has always been the Angelic Psalter, which is the foundation-stone of the New Testament. Therefore, if you want to reach hardened souls and win them over to God, preach my Psalter.” (The New Testament foundation-stone is the Gospel. Those who did not have access to it began reciting the Apostles' Creed, a prayer of the Gospel.) A burning zeal filled his heart, he began anew, with enthusiasm, the walk of holiness and love with hope for a better tomorrow.

Dominic taught the clergy and troops to pray it and the miraculous Battle of Muret was won against the Albi heretics. But Montfort continued his war of hatred and unrest. Dominic continued to preach Our Lady's Psalter everywhere he was called and it continued to spread like wild fire, burning in the hearts of all; but it would be five more years before Montfort died and the unrest completely ended.

Dominic rebuked the bishop of Toulouse for traveling with soliders, servants, and pack-mules, saying, “The enemies of the faith cannot be overcome like that: **Arm yourself with prayer instead of a sword; be clothed with humility instead of fine raiment.**” He was offered the bishopric three times, but refused. He dreamed of founding an order based on a true apostolic spirit of God's immeasurable love and forgiveness and in the **ministers of the altar**. He wanted men who would sacrifice and pray for those who had not come to know God's love and who would listen to and depended on God to defeat Satan. He wanted pastors trained in theology, willingly living in poverty, so as to provide the Church with expert preachers, whose spirit of joy and example of sanctification would spread the light and win in mens' hearts. In 1214, he founded the Dominican Order, many responded to his call. Pope Innocent III approved the order, stating the Church needed “pastors who were powerful in both words and works. The neglect of preaching is one cause of the ignorance, disorders, and heresies running rampant.”

One day Mary came to Dominic and gave him a simple book to read that explained the Hail Mary word by word; another occasion she and Jesus urged him to preach the Psalter in order to wipe out sin and convert sinners and heretics. Jesus told him that sinners needed to be prepared to receive **healing grace** by being put into the right frame of mind; so, “priests should kindle a love of prayer in peoples' hearts, especially my Angelic Psalter.” Dominic spent the rest of his life developing his order and preaching the Psalter. After his death, the Psalter spread for 100 years before its flame died out.

In 1460, the Lord spoke in the **Sacred Host**, being offered by St. Alan de la Roche, a Dominican friar: “How can you crucify me again? You crucified me once with your sins, and I would willingly be crucified again rather than have my Father offended by them...You are crucifying me now because you have all the learning to preach my mother's Psalter and are not doing it. You could teach many souls the right path and lead them away from sin; but you are not doing it and are guilty of the sins they commit.” Mary also asked him to rekindle her Psalter, she said, “converted sinners are a glory to me.” Since then her Psalter has never stopped spreading as a burning light in the world!



**“DEAR CHILDREN: I am here! I am among you!** I am looking at you, am smiling at you, and I love you in the way that only a mother can. **Through the Holy Spirit, who comes (flows) through my purity,** I see your hearts and I offer them to my Son. Already for a long time I have been asking of you to be my apostles—to pray for those who have not come to know God's love. I am asking for prayer said out of love—prayer which carries out works and sacrifices. Do not waste time thinking about whether you are worthy to be my apostles. The Heavenly Father will judge everyone; and you, love Him and listen to Him! I know that all of this confuses you, even my very stay among you, but accept it with joy and pray that you may comprehend that you are worthy to work for Heaven. My love is upon you. Pray that my love may win in all hearts, because that is the love which forgives, gives, and never stops! Thank you” (Med. 2/2/15).

**MARY IS THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: “WISDOM WAS CREATED BEFORE ALL THINGS. GOD CREATED HER IN THE HOLY GHOST AND Poured HER OUT UPON ALL HIS WORKS. WISDOM IS A PURE INFLUENCE FLOWING FROM THE GLORY OF THE ALMIGHTY!” (Sir. 1:4/CARD 13).**