

Why is Mary Considered the Mother of All?

The disciple John never refers to Mary by name—rather, he always refers to her as “woman” (John 2:4; 19:26; and Revelation 12:1). On the Cross, in John’s Gospel, Jesus looks down and sees his mother and John the beloved disciple and Jesus says: “Woman, behold your son . . . behold, your mother” (John 19:26-27). Here, John takes Mary as his spiritual mother, and Mary takes John as her spiritual son.

Mary as the New Eve:

Eve is described as “the mother of all the living” (Genesis 3:20). Through grace—in Christ—**Mary** becomes our mother; she becomes the mother of all the living not in the order of nature, but in the order of supernatural grace.

The **early Church** knew that Mary is the New Eve, the new mother of all the living and therefore our mother in Christ. As the early Church Fathers liked to say, Mary is like the moon: she has no light of herself, but she radiantly reflects the light of the sun. This analogy is important because it shows that Mary’s glory is always a participation in that of her son; that is, it’s never in competition with Jesus—it never takes away from Jesus, but only serves to show his power.

Both Eve and Mary were approached by an angel (with Eve, a fallen angel); doubt crept into Eve’s heart, whereas Mary’s faith was steadfast (see Luke 1:45). Eve participated in the downfall of the first Adam, just as Mary participates in the victory of her Son, the New Adam (see Luke 2:34-35). In the words of the early Fathers, “the knot of Eve’s disobedience was untied by Mary’s faith.”

Source, “<https://biblestudyforcatholics.com/mary-new-eve-spiritual-mother/>”

Pope Saint John Paul II on Mary:

Jesus gives his Mother to you so that she will comfort you with her tenderness. She will discharge her ministry as a mother and train you and mold you until Christ is fully formed in you. This is why I now wish to repeat the motto of my episcopal and pontifical service: “Totus tuus.” (completely yours) Throughout my life I have experienced the loving and forceful presence of the Mother of Our Lord. Mary accompanies me every day in the fulfillment of my mission as successor of Peter. Mary is the Mother of divine grace, because she is the Mother of the Author of grace. Entrust yourselves to her with complete confidence! (John Paul II, “Message of the Holy Father John Paul II for the 18th World Youth Day,” March 8, 2003, 3-4.)