

**MARY AND HER ROLE IN
OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE**

CCR ACTIVITY
ORGANISED BY
OMPH CATHOLIC
CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

at Church of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Ipoh, on 22 November 2017.

After an opening prayer, Rev Fr Joseph Stephen started his talk by informing the audience that all of us as Christians understand theology in our own way in that we ask, “Is our God real?” or “Does Mary answer our prayers?”

(Scripture read : [Luke 1:26-28](#) = the Annunciation story)

As early as 315AD, Bishop Athanasius noticed that the Church was grappling and struggling with maximising and minimising culture. To some, Mary was maximised in that she must fit into every aspect of our Christian life while minimalists said, if Jesus is our Saviour,

why are we holding on to other things in life and not focussed on Jesus alone.

The [Vatican II \[1961 to 1965\] Council](#), after much debate where minimalists won by a narrow margin, came to assert that it is within the context of the Church that we have Mary.

The Church has 4 dogmas of Mary, i.e.,

- 1) Mary Mother of God [1 Jan],
- 2) Assumption of Mary [15 Aug],
- 3) Immaculate Conception [8 Dec], and
- 4) Perpetual Virginity of Mary.

St Maximilian Kolbe, a Franciscan friar had pushed for another dogma – Mary as Co-Mediatrix, but so far it is left as it is.

In high Mariology, we see practices like the crowning of Mary, acknowledging her

as Queen of Heaven and how we are to respond/react to her - with reverence, thanksgiving and honour.

Low Mariology, however, allows women to identify themselves with Mary in emotions of crying, hunger, seeing her son suffer, etc., relating to her humanity in that she was one among the disciples. The [Lumen Gentium](#) puts Mary in the context of the Church as a servant of God [Ancilla Domini].

Fr Joe explained that when the Redemptorist Fathers were first commissioned to make Mary known, they advocated high Mariology. This can be found in their preaching. Now, after Vatican II, the Redemptorists when preaching Mary, identifying her with Ancilla Domini – Mary Servant of God.

Mary in her apparitions had this to tell us about herself:

1) [Lourdes](#) - a place of healing. Mary is interested that we are healed.

2) [Fatima](#) – we are called to be heavenly people, doing penance to allow grace of God to redeem us and make us whole.

3) [La Salette](#) – shows Mary to be angry and disappointed that after all the grace God has given us, why are we not responding.

4) [Guadalupe](#) – God is not about rich Spaniards who conquered Mexico. God is about poor native Indians. God is for all. God is about life.

We are called to learn from Mary, the model disciple, leading a life of humility, solidarity with the community, a life of simplicity. Mary serves as an example for

us as member of the Church. We are called to learn from and emulate Mary - as a wife and mother, in prayer and doing charity, day to day tasks [fetching water, visiting Elizabeth] etc– as Ancilla Domini [servant of the Lord].

Photo / images



A talk entitled
“MARY AND HER
ROLE IN OUR
CHRISTIAN LIFE”
by
Rev Fr Joseph Stephen
on
Wednesday
22 November 2017
@ 8pm
OMPH Church

1. Announcement poster.



2. Fr. Joe Stephen (standing, centre) with East Malaysian students who attended the talk.



3. Speaker: Fr. Joseph Stephen, C.Ss.R.



4. Praise and Worship* before the talk. *(click [here](#) for video)



5. Congregation attending talk.



6. Fr. Joseph Stephen beginning his talk.



7. Congregation listening attentively.

