

APRIL 9

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## *Mother of God*

To Catholics, Mary's traditional title of honor Mother of God has a comforting familiarity born from centuries of use. But to non-Catholic ears, it sounds positively heretical. How can God, who always was and always will be, have a mother? Doesn't the title imply that Mary existed before God?

If that was what Catholics meant when they called Mary the Mother of God, it would indeed be heretical. But the title Mother of God should more accurately be "Mother of Jesus, who is the Son of God." God, the Eternal One, can't have a mother. Jesus, on the other hand, needed a human mother in order to become fully human.

As Rev. John Randall writes in *Mary: Pathway to Fruitfulness*:

She taught him to speak and delighted in his first words. He learned her accent, her intonation, her idiomatic expressions. She taught him the names of flowers and insects, the words of psalms. Through her, God the Father loved and comforted his Son when he was hurt by bruises or cut by rejection or loneliness. She looked down smiling with pleasure at this child she loved, until one day she found herself looking up into his face. He had grown up.

She was, for all eternity, his mother. And ours.

*Do I think of Mary as my mother?  
If I believe that Mary is my mother, do I consider  
Jesus my brother?*

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I'M THANKFUL FOR ALL WHO HAVE ACTED AS MOTHERS TO ME.