

STUDENTS' IMAGE OF MARY IN THE LIGHT OF *LUMEN GENTIUM* MARIOLOGY

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated how Mary is perceived by the 80 Catholic college students of the University of San Carlos, Cebu City in the first semester of the academic year 2015 – 2016; and if these same images reflect the Catholic teachings on Mary in *Lumen Gentium*. The study solicited three types of data: 1) things associated with Mary, 2) images of Mary, and 3) sources of these Marian associations and images. The findings show that the students' answers on the first two items are approximately the same. In all likelihood, they perceived Mary not just the Mother of Jesus Christ, but also their mother and the mother of all - someone who is loving, caring, full of kindness and compassion. And as mentioned by some of them, Mary is pure, virgin and without sin. As their mother too, they perceive Mary's love and care for her Son Jesus Christ as something that extends to them and the rest of humanity. Her maternal love is manifested not just by guiding and protecting her children, but also listening to and answering her children's prayers, especially in their times of need. Thus, it can be said that the students' image of Mary jibe with Mary as "Mother of Perpetual Help". As for the sources of students' images of Mary, the first four sources are family, school, Church or priest's homilies and Bible. With the family considered as the domestic Church, partnering with the school, it may be said that it is appropriate and timely that students need to be educated about the role of Mary in the Church – something which was minimally reflected in the students' responses. In view of the findings and conclusions, the study recommends: 1) that the ReEd 30 enhanced syllabus based on this study be adopted, 2) that a lesson on Mary in relation to the other non-Catholics be undertaken as this will uphold the Church's principle of ecumenism and interfaith-dialogue – an area in the life of the Church that can be understood more in the light of the role of Mary in the Church.

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THE PROBLEM

Statement of the Problem

This study investigated the image of Mary among the ReEd 30 students of the University of San Carlos in order to determine if it reflects the Catholic Teachings on Mary. Specifically, it attempted to answer the following questions:

1. How is Mary presented in Chapter 8 of *Lumen Gentium*?
2. What is the image of Mary as perceived by the students?
3. What Marian images in *Lumen Gentium* are reflected in the students' responses?
4. How may the ReEd 30 syllabus be enhanced to incorporate the Catholic Marian teachings?

Significance of the Study

On the whole, this study will help illumine the minds of those people who believe and those who do not know about having devotion to Mary as the "most favorable" for the supreme worship of God. This will help them understand that true devotion proceeds from true faith, by which the faithful are led to recognize the excellence of the Mother of God. It is hoped that the beneficiaries of this study will be moved to a filial love towards Mary as their mother and to the imitation of her virtues.

Specifically, this study, first and foremost, will benefit the REED 30 college students of the University of San Carlos. With its proposed REED 30 syllabus, the teachers or catechists can help in deepening the students' understanding of Catholic