Mary Queen Of The Angels

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UNDERSTANDING THE TITLE MARY QUEEN OF THE ANGELS: HISTORY AND MEANING

The title **Mary Queen of the Angels** has resonated through centuries of Christian devotion, evoking a sense of majesty, intercession, and heavenly protection. For believers around the world, this name is not merely a poetic description but a deeply rooted theological affirmation of the Virgin Mary's unique role in the celestial hierarchy. In Catholic tradition, the title celebrates Mary as the sovereign of all angelic beings, a position that flows from her singular role as the Mother of God. This article explores the origins, scriptural foundations, and enduring significance of the title **Mary Queen of the Angels**, offering a complete guide for those seeking to understand its place in faith, art, and popular devotion.

Throughout history, the faithful have turned to Mary under many titles—Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the Sea, and

Queen of Peace, to name a few. Yet the title **Mary Queen of the Angels** holds a special power, connecting the earthly and the heavenly realms. It reminds believers that Mary presides over the angelic choirs, commanding their respect and obedience. Understanding this title involves exploring how early Church fathers, medieval theologians, and modern popes have articulated Mary's relationship with the angels.

The Scriptural Foundations of Mary Queen of the Angels

While the exact phrase **Mary Queen of the Angels** does not appear verbatim in the Bible, its scriptural roots run deep. The most direct foundation comes from the Book of Revelation, where Saint John describes a vision of a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head (Revelation 12:1). This powerful image has long been interpreted by Catholic tradition as a representation of Mary, crowned and glorified in heaven. The crown of stars symbolizes her queenship over all creation, including the angelic hosts.

Furthermore, the Gospel of Luke recounts the Annunciation, where the Archangel Gabriel appears to Mary with the greeting, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you" (Luke 1:28). This event shows Mary in direct communication with an angel, setting the stage for her later role as Queen of the Angels. The angels themselves honor her, and tradition holds that they continue to serve her in heaven. The interconnectedness of Mary and the angels is woven into the fabric of Scripture, even if the specific title came later through theological reflection and popular piety.

Historical Development of the Devotion

The devotion to **Mary Queen of the Angels** developed gradually over centuries. Early Church fathers such as Saint Augustine and Saint Gregory the Great wrote about Mary's exalted status among the angels, emphasizing her role as the mother of the Incarnate Word. By the Middle Ages, the title became more formalized. Theologians like Saint Bernard of Clairvaux and Saint Thomas Aquinas argued that since Mary gave birth to Christ, who is the King of Angels, she rightfully holds the title of Queen.

This logical progression of thought helped cement the devotion in the hearts of the faithful.

In the 16th century, the Franciscan tradition played a significant role in spreading the devotion to **Mary Queen of the Angels**. The Portiuncula Chapel, located within the Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels in Assisi, Italy, became a central site for this devotion. Saint Francis of Assisi had a profound love for Mary under this title, and the chapel remains a pilgrimage destination to this day. The feast of Our Lady of the Angels, celebrated on August 2, is directly linked to this tradition and is associated with the Portiuncula Indulgence.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, popes continued to encourage the devotion. Pope Pius IX, in his encyclical *Ineffabilis Deus*, which defined the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, referred to Mary's exalted position above the angels. Later, Pope Pius XII formally established the feast of the Queenship of Mary in 1954, further reinforcing the theological foundation for recognizing Mary as Queen of heaven and earth, including the angels.

Theological Significance: Why Mary Is

Called Queen of the Angels

Understanding the theological significance of the title **Mary Queen of the Angels** requires grasping two key concepts: Mary's unique role in the economy of salvation and the hierarchical nature of the angelic world. Catholic teaching holds that angels are pure spirits created by God, divided into nine choirs: Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, Dominations, Virtues, Powers, Principalities, Archangels, and Angels. These beings serve God and execute His will. Mary, as the Mother of God, holds a rank that surpasses them all.

The title Queen of the Angels does not imply that Mary is a separate deity or a rival to Christ. Rather, it acknowledges that her role in salvation history gives her a unique authority and intercessory power. Because she cooperated fully with God's plan, she is honored above all creatures, including the angels. This position is based on grace, not nature. Mary is a human being, but she is the most exalted human being ever created, and she shares in the glory of her Son's kingship.

Moreover, the title reflects the belief that Mary works in close collaboration with the angels to protect and guide the faithful. Many saints and mystics have reported visions of Mary surrounded by angels, emphasizing her role as their leader and queen. In the Litany of Loreto, one of the oldest and most

beloved litanies to the Virgin, she is invoked as "Queen of Angels," a formal recognition of this doctrine.

DEVOTIONS AND PRAYERS TO MARY QUEEN OF THE ANGELS

Over the centuries, countless prayers and devotions have been composed in honor of **Mary Queen of the Angels**. These prayers express confidence in her intercession and acknowledge her authority over the angelic world. One of the most famous is the "Hail Holy Queen" (Salve Regina), which invokes Mary as "Queen of mercy." While not explicitly naming the angels, the prayer has been traditionally associated with the yearning for heavenly help and protection.

Another significant devotion is the "Queen of the Angels" Rosary, which incorporates specific meditations on Mary's role with the angels. Some versions of the Rosary include prayers for angelic protection and guidance, asking Mary to dispatch her angelic helpers to assist the faithful in their daily struggles. The Chaplet of **Mary Queen of the Angels** is a shorter prayer, often recited for protection against evil and for the deliverance of souls.

Prayer to Mary Queen of the

Angels

Here is a traditional prayer honoring Mary under this title, which continues to be recited by the faithful around the world:

"*Most glorious Queen of Angels, you who from the beginning have received from God the power and mission to crush the head of the infernal serpent, we humbly beseech you: send your holy legions, so that under your command they may pursue the demons, fight against them, and repress their audacity. May they drive them away from the presence of God, from the souls redeemed by the Precious Blood of Jesus, and from all places where they might dare to come. Holy Queen of Angels, protect us and defend us from all evil. Amen.*"

This prayer reflects the deep belief that Mary, as Queen of the Angels, has the power to command angelic forces in the spiritual battle against evil. It is a prayer of confidence, trust, and supplication, asking for her motherly protection in times of spiritual trial.

CHURCHES AND SHRINES DEDICATED TO MARY QUEEN OF THE ANGELS

Around the world, numerous churches and shrines are dedicated to **Mary Queen of the Angels**, each bearing witness to the enduring popularity of this devotion. Perhaps the most famous is the Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels in Assisi, Italy, which houses the

Portiuncula Chapel. This basilica is a major pilgrimage site, drawing millions of visitors each year who come to venerate Mary under this title and to seek the Portiuncula Indulgence.

In the United States, several parishes bear the name **Mary Queen of the Angels**. One notable example is the Mary Queen of the Angels Church in New Orleans, Louisiana, which has served the local Catholic community since the 19th century. The church is known for its beautiful architecture, stained glass windows depicting angels and Marian scenes, and its vibrant parish life. Another well-known church is located in Los Angeles, California, which was originally named "Our Lady Queen of the Angels" by the Spanish founders. The city of Los Angeles itself derives its name from this devotion: "El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de los Ángeles" (The Town of Our Lady the Queen of the Angels).

In addition to these, there are shrines dedicated to **Mary Queen of the Angels** in various other countries, including France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, and the Philippines. Each shrine reflects the local culture and history while maintaining the core devotion to Mary's queenship over the angels. These sacred spaces serve as centers of prayer, pilgrimage, and spiritual renewal.

Los Angeles: A

City Under Her Patronage

The connection between Los Angeles and the title **Mary Queen of the Angels** is especially strong. When Spanish settlers founded the city in 1781, they named it in honor of the Virgin Mary under this title. The original name, "El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de los Ángeles," is a direct reference to the devotion. Today, the city's name is a constant reminder of Mary's patronage and her role as Queen of the Angels. The Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, completed in 2002, continues this tradition, serving as the mother church of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

The feast day of Our Lady of the Angels, celebrated on August 2, holds special significance in Los Angeles. Many parishes hold special Masses, processions, and community events to honor Mary under this title. The devotion is a source of unity and identity for the Catholic community in Southern California, linking them to the rich history of their city and their faith.

ARTISTIC REPRESENTATIONS OF MARY QUEEN OF THE ANGELS

Throughout art history, **Mary Queen of the Angels** has been a popular subject for painters, sculptors, and iconographers. In these depictions, Mary is typically shown crowned, often surrounded by a host of angels who

adore her or serve her. The crown symbolizes her queenship, while the angels emphasize her exalted position. She may be holding the infant Jesus, or she may be depicted alone, reigning in heavenly glory.

One famous example is the painting "Mary Queen of the Angels" by Bartolomé Esteban Murillo, a Spanish Baroque master. In this work, Mary is shown floating on clouds, surrounded by a multitude of angels, with her hands clasped in prayer. The painting conveys a sense of heavenly peace, majesty, and tender devotion. Another well-known representation is found in the Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels in Assisi, where a fresco depicts Mary enthroned with angels in attendance.

Modern artists have also taken up the theme, creating contemporary icons and artworks that honor **Mary Queen of the Angels**. These works often blend traditional symbolism with modern aesthetics, appealing to new generations of believers. The enduring appeal of this subject lies in its ability to convey both the majesty of Mary's queenship and her approachable, motherly nature.

THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS (AUGUST 2)

The feast of Our Lady of the Angels, celebrated on August 2, is the primary liturgical celebration dedicated to **Mary Queen of the Angels**. This feast originated with the Franciscan Order and is closely tied to the Portiuncula Chapel in Assisi. Pope Saint Francis of Assisi received a vision in which Christ and the

Virgin Mary granted a plenary indulgence to all who visited the chapel on this day. This became known as the Portiuncula Indulgence, a privilege that continues to this day.

On this feast day, Catholics are encouraged to visit any parish church or Franciscan shrine to obtain the indulgence, which involves confession, communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father. The feast is a celebration of Mary's intercession and her role as Queen of the Angels. Many parishes hold special events, including outdoor processions, solemn Masses, and angel-themed activities for children.

The date of August 2 also coincides with the dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels in Assisi, making it