

Ave Maria

Hail Mary

***Hail Mary**, full of grace the Lord is with thee blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

Reflection on the Ave Maria:

The Angelic Salutation consists of two parts: the Salutation itself and the Prayer which the Church added to it. The Salutation is composed, first, of the Angel Gabriel's message:

Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women; then, the words of Elizabeth, mother of St. John the Baptist: Blessed is the fruit of thy womb. Finally, the Church added the names of Jesus and Mary.

The Prayer, which, with the words: Holy Mary, Mother of God, resumes the Angel's salutation and inspires great confidence, is merely an appeal to the Mother of Mercy. The Church composed it:

Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

"The Angelic Salutation is a most concise summary of all that Catholic theology teaches about the Blessed Virgin."

(St. Louis de Montfort, *Secret of the Rosary* 44).

The Hail Mary is a blessed dew that falls from heaven upon the souls of the predestined, giving them a marvelous spiritual fecundity The Hail Mary is a sharp and flaming blade which, joined to the Word of God, gives the preacher the strength to pierce, move, and convert the most hardened hearts"

(St. Louis de Montfort, *Secret of the Rosary* 55)

See also Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraphs 2673-2679 for a commentary on the Hail Mary.

