



## Study Guide Answers

### Chapter 1 ~ The Special Call and Gift of Woman

#### LESSON ONE

*Questions from Full of Grace: Women and the Abundant Life*

1. Mary's soul had no stain of sin. She was in a perfect state of grace.
2. Answers will vary—family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc.
3. Answers will vary.

*Know the Faith*

1. Mary's "Immaculate Conception" refers to God's keeping her free from the stain of original sin from her conception. In order for her to fulfill her vocation, it was necessary that she be wholly borne by God's grace (CCC490).
2. She was redeemed from the moment of her conception, when God applied to her the anticipated merits of her Son (CCC 491-492).

*For Pondering...*Answers will vary

#### LESSON TWO

*Questions from Full of Grace: Women and the Abundant Life*

1. Answers will vary. Possible themes: Increasing scope of feminine influence at all levels of society. The importance of faithful and faith-filled Catholic women to renew and redeem our culture and our world.
2. Answers may vary. Rain speaks of openness to life and truth; soil of the "softness" and self-donation necessary to absorb spiritual nutrition; seed "bursting" at the appointed time with new life.
3. Answers will vary.
4. Answers will vary.

*Know the Faith*

1. a). Mary's acceptance of motherhood as a total gift of self; b). Her openness to the whole work of Christ, His whole mission.
2. It was imbued with "burning charity," which in union with Christ sought the restoration of "supernatural life to souls."
3. Because Mary entered into the one mediation "between God and man" through the mission of her Son, Jesus Christ, which was the restoration of supernatural life to souls, she became the spiritual mother of all people.
4. Answers may vary. One possibility: Spiritual mother is one who bears Christ's life to others, and nurtures that life from infancy to full maturity.

*For Pondering...*Answers will vary.

#### LESSON THREE

*Questions from Full of Grace: Women and the Abundant Life*

1. Her capacity to bear spiritual life (spiritual motherhood, spiritual maternity) is mirrored.
2. By nurturing spiritual life in others and, in some cases, raising other people's children, the celibate are called to bear new life.
3. *Munus* is a divine task, duty, or mission God asks us to fulfill. Woman's *munus* is to bear spiritual life to the world. Everything about woman is ordered to be a nurturing influence regardless of her state-in-life.
4. Answers may vary. Growth can come in numbers of ways including by imitating Mary's self-giving obedience, by radiating the life of Christ, by striving for the beauty of inner holiness rather than physical beauty, through the gift of love and service, etc.

*Know the Faith*

1. Be "impregnated with a spirit of the Gospel."



## Study Guide Answers

### Chapter 1 ~ The Special Call and Gift of Woman

LESSON THREE continued...

2. Unique sources of influence: Being present as life begins and as it ends. As mothers, by raising godly children in the home. As wives, with a life of mutual self-giving and sacrifice. As daughters and sisters, with our sensitivity, intuition, generosity and faithfulness. As workers, uniting reason and feeling to bring about social justice. As consecrated women, by modeling a "spousal" relationship to God that will one day be ours. By being a source of encouragement and strength to men.

Answers will vary.

*For Pondering...*Answers will vary

#### LESSON FOUR

*Questions from Full of Grace: Women and the Abundant Life*

1. Impregnated: "saturated with, permeated, pervaded"
2. Through self-renunciation, giving oneself over to the life of Christ within us, allowing ourselves to be transformed by Christ.
3. Mary's divine task was to physically bear and nurture the Song of God and to be the spiritual mother of all people.
4. Answers will vary

*Know the Faith*

1. We do this by a) leading people to faith, then b) encouraging them to grow in that faith.
2. Erosion of the moral order at all levels of society as well as very serious errors (women may give specific examples)
3. It depends on its members' living union with Christ, which encourages a life of holiness and the continual exercise of faith, hope, and charity.
4. Mary lived in union with her Son at all times including the ordinary concerns and labors of everyday life. She now demonstrates her maternal love from heaven by caring for the brothers of her Son until they are led to eternal life.

*For Pondering...*Answers will vary

#### LESSON FIVE

*Questions from Full of Grace: Women and the Abundant Life*

1. Answers will vary.
2. Answers will vary.
3. Answers will vary.
4. Three dispositions of the heart are: to be *receptive* to the action of God; *trust* in His providence; and *surrender* to His holy will in all things.

*Know the Faith*

1. The Church reflects Mary in three ways: a). She becomes mother through the Word of God received in faith. b). Through baptism and preaching she imparts new life to children born of God. c). She remains a virgin, preserving the integrity and purity given to her by her Spouse.
2. Mary is a "pattern of virtue" for the faithful by exemplifying holiness, faith, hope, and love, and seeking and fulfilling the divine will in all things.

*For Pondering...*Answers will vary.