

Mary, Star of Evangelization

Pray for us!



Learn a little more about these five miraculous and beautiful images of Mary. As the Mother of Jesus and our Mother, Mary identifies with every group of people in the world. Notice how she looks different and speaks different languages in each story. Why do you think she appears to us in these different ways?

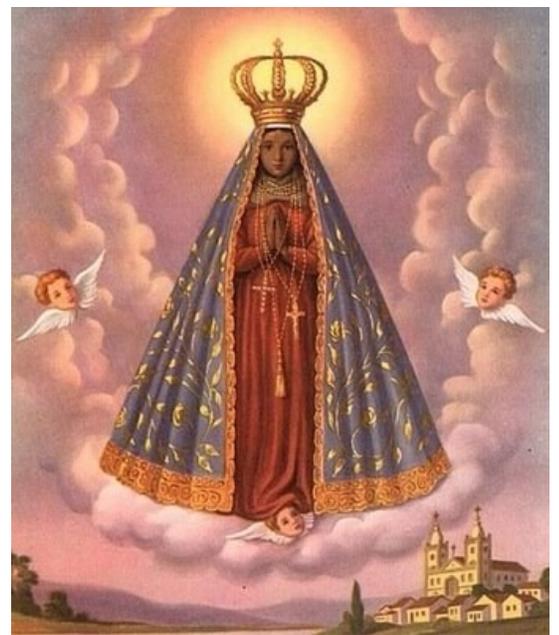


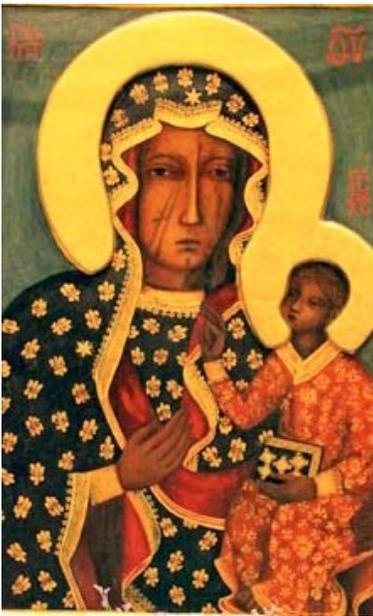
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart from Indonesia

This is the picture of *Notre-Dame-du-Sacré-Cœur*, “Our Lady of the Sacred Heart,” as it is painted from the Indonesian perspective with the result that Mother Mary is depicted as wearing a batik skirt and a blue *kebaya*, and a batik shawl hanging from over her shoulder. Standing upright and elegantly, her right hand is holding the sacred heart of her son, Jesus, and her left hand is supporting him. Each of their two heads radiates halo, symbolizing their holiness and divinity. Both are smiling. The blue sky, the white clouds, the yellow and green leaves, and the green grass in the background signify the participation of nature in the sacredness of the lady and her son.

Our Lady of Aparecida from Brazil

The devotion to Our Lady of the Conception Aparecida, more commonly known as “Our Lady of Aparecida”, has a very special meaning. It came about when a group of fishermen, after several useless attempts, asked the intercession of Our Lady. But instead of a fish, they caught a small image of Our Lady made of terracota. The title of “Aparecida” derives from the verb “appear” since it was in a moment of great need that the fishermen found her. After having recovered the image of the Virgin, the fishermen then caught so much fish that they were forced to return to the port, because their boat almost sunk. This was the first miracle attributed to Our Lady of Aparecida, who is also Patroness of Brazil.





Our Lady of Czestochowa from Poland

According to tradition, St. Luke the Evangelist is believed to be the original artist of this painting. It was brought to Poland in 1382 through the efforts of Ladislaus of Opole. In 1430, a devastating attack on the Polish Shrine resulted in tragic losses and the damaging of the holy picture. To this very day, despite the attempts to repair the damage, the slashes on the face of the Virgin Mary are still visible. King Jan Casimir, in 1656, made a solemn vow proclaiming the Mother of God to be the "Queen of the Polish Crown" and the Shrine of Jasna Gora to be a spiritual capital for Poland. Following World War II, a nation devastated by the scourges of war drew new strength and courage from Mary to rebuild and recover.

Our Lady of Kibeho from Rwanda

Kibeho is a small site located in the southern part of Rwanda in the diocese of Gikongoro, founded in 1934 and dedicated to Mary, Mother of God. Today, Kibeho is best known as a place of apparitions and pilgrimages. The first apparition of Mary was on November 28, 1981, when Alphonsine Mumureke, a young student of the Kibeho High School, saw a Lady of incomparable beauty who presented herself under the name of "Nyina Wa Jambo," which means "Mother of the Word." Alphonsine immediately recognized her as the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Virgin asked everybody to convert, to keep faith and to pray. In spite of the critics and skeptics, a movement of belief began to develop quickly enough. Before the Christmas holidays of 1981, a group of "converted" students and teachers appeared at a regular prayer meeting with Alphonsine, where they recited the rosary accompanied by hymns in the honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



Our Lady of La Vang from Vietnam

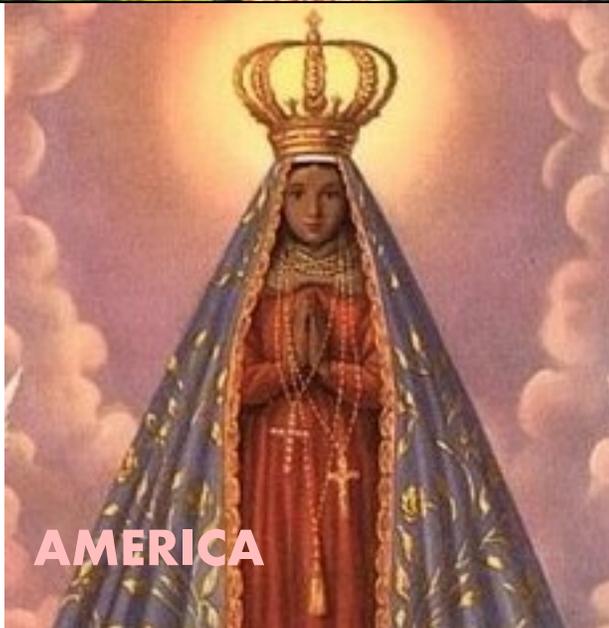
Our Lady of La Vang is the central and national shrine of Vietnam. The name is derived from a type of fern which used to grow there. During a time of great persecution (1798-1801) many Catholics hid in the jungle, where they experienced hunger and sickness, and prepared themselves for martyrdom. One day, as the community was praying, the figure of a lady surrounded by many lights, appeared to them. She presented herself as the Mother of God, encouraged and consoled them, and gave them a special sign of her loving care. She told the people to use the leaves of the fern to treat their sicknesses and promised to answer their prayers with love. All who came to this site to pray would be heard and their petitions granted.

Mary is the Mother of Jesus and Mother of the Church

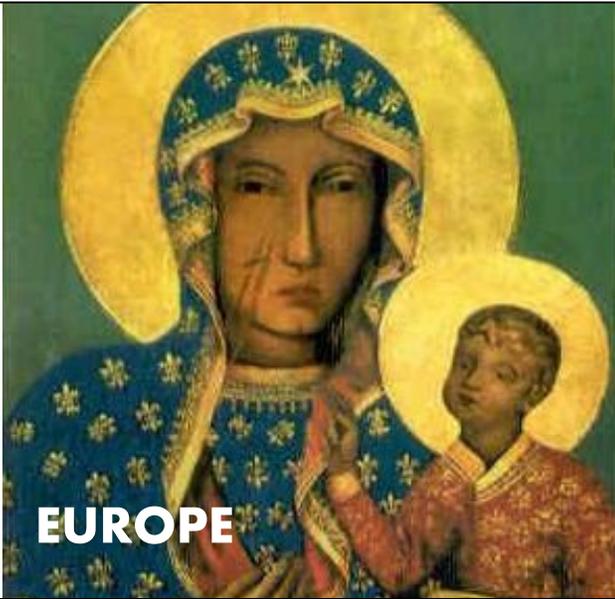
She serves as patroness and protector of all people around the world. She has many different names and appearances in different places. Have you heard of these names or “titles” for Mary? These are from each of the five parts of the world. After learning more about each one, see if you can draw a copy of her image. Think about why is each one different. Then ask Mary to protect and watch over each area of the world.



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Indonesia



Our Lady of Aparecida, Brazil



EUROPE

Our Lady of Czestochowa, Poland



AFRICA

Our Lady of Kibeho, Rwanda



ASIA

Our Lady of La Vang, Vietnam