

# The Virgin Mary, Creation, Incarnation, and Redemption: From the Church Fathers to Chiara Lubich.



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## The Virgin Mary, Creation, Incarnation, and Redemption: From the Church Fathers to Chiara Lubich

[Brian K. Reynolds, \*Fu Jen Catholic University\*](#)

### Abstract

This article discusses a series of texts on the Virgin Mary that are found in the writings by Chiara Lubich known as “Paradise ’49,” which describe her illuminations that she, together with some of her first companions, received in 1949 and 1951. I begin by considering illuminations on Mary’s role as Mother or Bearer of God, and then discuss the part she plays in the tradition of *Desolata*, or Desolate One. I conclude with some remarks about her role in relation to the Trinity, humanity, and creation (of which Mary is the first). I show how Lubich partakes entirely in the tradition that begins with the Fathers as Justin Martyr and Irenaeus, who write of the Virgin as the New Eve of the 1st century. Yet, I argue, Lubich’s insights add something new, particularly in her understanding of the relationship between Jesus’s cry of agony and Mary’s desolation as she participates in the agony of her Son. I seek to show that Lubich’s new understanding of her divine motherhood has profound implications for a variety of doctrinal matters, including her freedom from sin, her co-operation in the Redemption, and the actualizing of the grace unleashed by Christ’s sacrifice. But more



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some respects, Lubich shows us how it is through losing God and Mary, in her desolation, most fully mirrors the kenosis that lie perichoretic relations of the Trinity and offers us a model of his love on earth and participate as cocreators in the renewal and Creation.

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