**Mary's Sorrows**
September 15 (Our Lady of Sorrows)

**1. Being called by God, shouldn't Mary have been filled with *joy*? Why do we talk about *sorrows*?**

**2. There is a traditional Marian devotion called "The Seven Sorrows of Mary". What are they?**



    1. The prophecy of Simeon. (St. Luke 2:34, 35)
    2. The flight into Egypt. (St. Matthew 2:13, 14)
    3. The loss of the Child Jesus in the temple. (St. Luke 2: 43-45)
    4. The meeting of Jesus and Mary on the Way of the Cross.
    5. The Crucifixion.
    6. The taking down of the Body of Jesus from the Cross.
    7. The burial of Jesus.

**3. You say there are MORE than these seven sorrows. What do you mean?**

- We know so little about Mary's real life because we don't walk in her sandals
- We can learn so much from cultural context of Jewish life and the Land
- Meditation on the Scripture from her perspective tells us much

**4. Let's discuss some of the unknown sorrows of Mary. First, <u>the Annunciation</u>..**

- Joseph understood the scandal of the pregnancy
- If I were Mary, I would have said, "*Dear Angel, please tell everyone else in Nazareth what you just told me.*"
- "Then the angel left her" (Luke 1:38)

**5. Going to <u>Bethlehem</u>, walking past the Tomb of Rachel and arriving in Bethlehem**


**6. Death of Joseph**


**7. <u>Cana</u> seems a time of joy with wine and the first miracle. Why do you see sorrow for Mary at the wedding?**

- Saying "Good-bye" to her son


**8. Moving into the <u>house of Apostle St. John</u>, why would that be a sorrow?**

- Leaving her own home
- James was killed early on
- Taken to the pagan land of Ephesus



**9. Did Mary ever accuse God of not protecting her —not sheltering her from discomfort and sorrow?**


**10. Mary still has sorrows as she prays for lost souls who reject her Son**


**11. How do we handle adversity, unknowns and sorrow in our own lives?**

- Cardinal John Newman wrote, "Lead, Kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom, Lead me Thou on! The night is dark, and I am far from home, Lead Thou me on! <u>Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see the distant scene; one step is enough for me</u>.