



ACM
Association for
CATECHUMENAL MINISTRY

Mary in OCIA Formation: From Questions to Devotion



This week marks the anniversary of Our Lady's first appearance to St. Bernadette in Lourdes, France. From those eighteen visits to a humble French girl, a wellspring of grace continues to flow, making Lourdes a beacon of hope and healing for millions.

As OCIA leaders, we often encounter participants who find Catholic teachings about Mary challenging. **Here's how we can help them embrace the Mother of God:**

Through Christ-Centered Formation:

- Root all Marian teaching in Jesus' gift of His mother from the cross

- Show how authentic Marian devotion naturally flows from understanding Christ
- Connect Mary's role to the fundamental truths about Jesus as Lord, Savior, and Second Person of the Trinity

Practical Teaching Approaches:

- Provide clear catechesis on Marian doctrines
- Introduce the Rosary as a Christ-centered prayer
- Share stories of Marian apparitions to illustrate her ongoing maternal care
- Address common objections with patience and understanding

When participants struggle with Marian devotion, we can offer this simple but profound suggestion: **"Ask Jesus what He wants you to do about His Mom."** This invitation often opens hearts to seeing Mary through Jesus' eyes.

May Our Lady of Lourdes guide your ministry and wrap each of your catechumens in her maternal care.

Questions? Contact us!

Blessings,
The ACM OCIA Team

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228 Milton Overlook Pass
Woodstock, GA 30188 USA