

# Book offers vivid picture of Mary

Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda has written *The Seeker's Guide to Mary*, a new addition to the Seeker Series published by Loyola Press. As I read her text, however, the thought kept recurring to me that it might have been called *Mary, the Guide of Seekers!*

There emerges a vivid sense of how the Mother Mary has been and is today a powerful, guiding presence in the lives of Christians. The author shares her own deeply felt experience of Mary in her own life as wife, mother and professional woman. These personal touches add depth but do not interfere with the presentation of the historical and theological material she summarizes. Her own comments and the "reader's guide" that appears at the end of the text help us to personally appropriate the discussion by raising the question of how we relate to Mary in our discipleship today, important during this time of "reconceptualization" and "reorganization" in the life of many Christians.

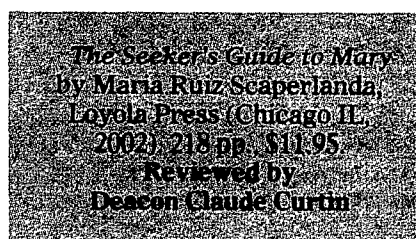
The author writes of Mary in Scripture, in history, in other faiths, in apparitions, in prayer and popular devotion and as patron. "A Word to the Seeker: There's Something



about Mary," orients us to the subsequent presentation.

The 19 references to Mary in the New Testament are studied briefly. Subsequent chapters demonstrate how Christians have taken up the very attitude of Mary and "pondered in its heart" the diverse levels of meaning suggested by the biblical witness, attempting in ever-new ways to penetrate the saving truths suggested by Scripture.

The author shows how deeply we rely on the unfolding tradition of faith, seeking understanding of it for the emergence of the full image of Mary we enjoy today. The formal assertion of the magisterium that Mary was conceived without sin did not occur until 1854; the doctrine of her Assumption into heaven was not pronounced until 1950; and the feast of Mary as Queen of Heaven was not inaugurated until 1954. Some of to-



day's most familiar titles and images of Mary came into particular prominence only in recent times, while having vitality over the centuries in various local churches.

The author suggests the various elements of this vital and evolving relationship in her discussion of the apparitions of Mary. We are told that nearly 80,000 visions of Mary have been claimed since the third century, very few having achieved the significant institutional support and widespread historical influence of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico and the events at Lourdes and Fatima. Christian's encounters with the guiding and supporting Mary, as they struggle to live the faith and persevere in hope amidst the terrors of history, demonstrate the unique way in which the ancient experience of the faithful becomes ever new.

The author emphasizes this same

point in "Mary as Patron." She notes how the experience of Mary is always highly enculturated, "attuned to the needs, desires, and lived experiences of every community in the world." In this way we might find in the experience of Mary a model of how "to proclaim the Good News with an awareness that respects diversity and native-ethnic individuality in the Christian community."

The author often reminds us of the deep image of Christian life suggested to us by the mother of Jesus and of the church. "This idea of allowing God to be born within us, in our hearts, is of the essence of who we are as Christians." Mary is the example of yielding the autonomy of one's own will and flesh to the power of the Holy Spirit so that the Word can become flesh in the always new circumstances of human history. If she is the "first Christian" it is because all of us, after her, must do the same. But Mary is not only a model. She is most especially a personal, powerful and compassionate guide to any seeker who might call upon her.

The reviewer is deacon at St. Michael Church, Penn Yan.

## GENERAL

### Announcements

**ADOPTIONS** The Catholic Courier does not publish adoption advertising. To obtain a list of agencies that serve birth mothers and adoptive parents, call 585-529-9530. Agencies wishing to be included on this list may send information to the Catholic Courier.

### Card of Thanks

**TO BLESSED VIRGIN MARY:** for all favors received. She is truly a miracle worker. JMP.

Visit us on the web:  
[www.catholiccourier.com](http://www.catholiccourier.com)

## MERCHANDISE

### Crafts & Collectibles

**Rosary & Rosary Bracelets:**  
Hand made. Jewelry, collectibles, crafts and gifts.  
**ROCKSHOP**  
214 E. Main St. Palmyra.  
**315-597-9226**  
email: rockshopjewelry@att.net.

### Ceiling Repair

**TEXTURED/SWIRLED CEILINGS:** 9' x 12' ceiling only \$59! Water damaged, stained, poorly textured/swirled ceilings repaired, re-textured, repainted, or made flat again. Any size drywall/plaster wall repairs. No job too small. 585/392-5076.

## SERVICES

### Moving & Hauling

**K-D Moving & Storage, Inc.**  
Experience in office, household moving and deliveries.  
*Big or Small, We do them All!*  
**473-6610/473-4357**  
23 Arlington St. Rochester, NY 14607  
NY001#9657

### Painting & Wallcovering

**AL MEYVIS, JR.:** Painting: Basement walls repaired/painted/wet basement problems/cellar windows. All type home repairs. NYS certified. Save up to 20% now, call 392-4435 or 323-2876.

### Travel

**JOIN OUR GROUP NOVA SCOTIA SEPTEMBER 3-13, 2003:** call for brochure 585-637-2119. ALL SEASONS TRAVEL.

## EMPLOYMENT

### Help Wanted

### MAINTENANCE WORKER

Part-time 10-12 hours a week.  
HS or GED required.  
One year experience in general maintenance preferred.  
Knowledge of appliance repair a plus. Responsible for maintenance/repair/ some lawn work at our group homes in Brighton and Webster.  
Daytime availability and own hand tools necessary.  
Valid, clean driver's license required. Send resume to

**Easter Seals**  
349 W. Commercial St.  
East Rochester, NY 14445  
or fax (585) 264-9547 or E-mail  
[mtaylor@easter-seals.org](mailto:mtaylor@easter-seals.org). EOE.

**Executive Director** Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes, an agency affiliated with Catholic Charities of Rochester, Inc. **Requirements:** Candidate must be creative, self-motivated, capable of directing a multi-faceted human services agency, experienced in not-for-profit agency administration, including program development, supervision, finance, fund development, public relations, community organization. Must be an active member of the Catholic Church and have the ability to work with other faith communities.  
**Education & Experience:** Masters degree in Social Work or Public Administration; five years management experience. Salary commensurate with experience. Send resume by January 24, 2003 with a cover letter specifying parish affiliation and available start date to:

ATTN: Mr. John Shanahan  
Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes  
301 Franklin Square  
Geneva, NY 14456

### Coordinator of Development Information - Pastoral Center

Seeking applicants for this position that would implement and manage centralized gift processing utilizing Ascent Development Software in an AS/400 environment. This position is responsible for the integrity of a major diocesan database that includes 150,000 families. Specific duties would include: the supervision of the Development information area and its functions; trains and supervises full time employees and seasonal support staff, manage workload and assignments; oversee the maintenance of all constituent records including, but not restricted to the recording of all gifts and pledges received, recording of donor biographical information, coordinate the generation of correspondence, reminders, acknowledgements, etc, as required; administrator of Ascent Development Application including software upgrades. Work with AS/400 Coordinator in the Information Technology Department and Assistant to the CFO in the Finance Department. Qualifications include Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology or comparable experience preferred; Extensive AS/400 environment experience including operating system and query; Demonstrated expertise with Excel spreadsheets. Access databases and word processing software. Send cover letter and resume to: Mr. Luis Rivera.  
Diocese of Rochester, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, New York 14624  
Phone: 585/328-3210, Fax: 585/529-9529 or e-mail: [rivera@dor.org](mailto:rivera@dor.org)  
**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2003.**

## Classifieds

will find you  
dedicated and  
well-educated  
employees  
585-529-9530

