



# The Holy See

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TRIBUTE TO THE STATUE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY IN PIAZZA DI SPAGNA

## ***PRAYER OF JOHN PAUL II***

*Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*  
*Wednesday, 8 December 2004*

Immaculate Virgin!

Once again we are here to honour you, at the foot of this column  
from which you lovingly watch  
over Rome and the whole world,  
ever since, 150 years ago,  
Bl. Pius IX proclaimed  
as a truth of the Catholic faith  
your preservation from  
every stain of sin  
in anticipation of the  
death and Resurrection  
of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Immaculate Virgin!

Your spotless spiritual beauty  
is for us a living source of  
confidence and hope.  
To have you as Mother, Holy Virgin,  
reassures us on the path of life  
as a pledge of eternal salvation.  
Because of this, O Mary,  
we have recourse to you

with confidence.

Help us to build a world  
where human life is always  
cherished and defended,  
every form of violence banished,  
the peace of all tenaciously sought.

Immaculate Virgin!

In this Year of the Eucharist,  
grant that we may celebrate and adore  
with renewed faith and ardent love  
the holy mystery of the  
Body and Blood of Christ.

At your school,

O Woman of the Eucharist,  
teach us to remember the marvels  
that God never ceases to work in  
human hearts.

With motherly tenderness, Virgin Mary,  
guide our steps always on the  
path of good. Amen!