

## **Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

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by

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The year was 431 A.D., the great Council of Ephesus took place. Meeting were Bishops, Priests and Deacons along with laity and vowed consecrated people. They were there, among other things, to examine the role of Mary, the Mother of the Lord, in the proper place in the Church of Jesus Christ. Ephesus was a city near present-day Selcuk in Turkey. Memnon, the Catholic Bishop of Ephesus was afraid of violence. He sent his clergy only to the church. The name of the church was “Mary’s Church”.

They did the following:

- Confirmed the original Nicene Creed.
- Condemned the teaching of Nestorius, Patriarch of Constantinople. He allowed that “Our Lady” could be called “the Christotokos” or “Birth Giver of Christ” but NOT the “Theotokos” or “Birth Giver of God”. This Council, the third called in the history of the church, spoke even more about Jesus Christ, as true God! More than even having given Our Lady this glorious title of “Mother of God”.
- The Council of Ephesus, took place in between the First Council of Constantinople and the Council of Chalcedon.
- There were about 250 Roman Catholic Bishops present. The Emperor Theodosius II convened the Council of Ephesus at the request of Nestorius, who was hoping his definition of Mary’s role would be approved rather that of the other side. Cyril, Patriarch of Alexandria, was totally against Nestorius.
- In declaring Our Lady to be the “God Bearer”, the Council spoke eloquently about the Divinity of Christ! The atmosphere at the Council was heated. Several of the Eastern Churches continued to follow Nestorius, who eventually retired to a monastery always asserting to the end his “Orthodoxy”.

In the final analysis let us always pray, “Dear Holy Mother of God, Our Lady of Palestine, be our True Mother as we pray to you, O Mother of God and our Mother. Keep us ever in your heart and Love us always!” Amen!