



The Holy See

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!