

***Virginitas post partum* (Perpetual Virginity of Mary)**

Definition: The belief that Mary remained a virgin after the birth of Jesus Christ.

Disputing Perpetual Virginity:

- **Hegesippus the Nazarene (110-180 A.D)**

James, the Lord's brother, succeeds to the government of the Church, in conjunction with the apostles. He has been universally called *the Just*, from the days of the Lord down to the present time. For many bore the name of James; but this one was holy from his mother's womb...

There still survived of the kindred of the Lord the grandsons of Judas, who according to the flesh was called his brother. These were informed against, as belonging to the family of David, and Evocatus brought them before Domitian Caesar: for *that emperor* dreaded the advent of Christ, as Herod had done...(*Fragments*)

- **Irenaeus of Lyons (130 – 202 A.D)**

so did He who is the Word, recapitulating Adam in Himself, rightly receive a birth, enabling Him to gather up Adam [into Himself], from Mary, who was as yet a virgin...(*Against Heresies, 3:21:10*)

To this effect they testify, [saying,] that before Joseph had come together with Mary, while she therefore remained in virginity, "she was found with child of the Holy Ghost... (*Against Heresies, 3:21:4*)

- **Tertullian of Carthage (155 – 240? AD)**

And therefore, when to the previous question, Who is my mother, and who are my brethren? He added the answer None but they who hear my words and do them, He transferred the names of blood-relationship to others, whom He judged to be more closely related to Him by reason of their faith. Now no one transfers a thing except from him who possesses that which is transferred. If, therefore, He made them His mother and His brethren who were not so, how could He deny them these relationships who really had them? (*Chapter 19, Against Marcion, Book IV*)

For who was more worthily to perform the initiatory rite on the body of the Lord, than flesh similar in kind to that which conceived and gave birth to that (body)? And indeed it was a virgin, about to marry once for all after her delivery, who gave birth to Christ, in order that each title of sanctity might be fulfilled in Christ's parentage, by means of a mother who was both virgin, and wife of one husband. (*Chapter 8, On Monogamy*)

- **Victorinus of Pettau (? - 303 or 304 A.D)**

- The church father Basil commented that the view that Mary had other children after Jesus “*was widely held and, though not accepted by himself, was not incompatible with orthodoxy*” (*Homily: In Sanctam Christi Generationem*)

- **Those Excommunicated for their belief *against* Perpetual Virginity of Mary:**

- 1. Bonosus, Bishop of Sardica (4th century A.D)**
- 2. Helvidius (4th century)**
- 3. *Jovinianus (4th century)***
- 4. Auxentius**
- 5. Germinator**
- 6. Felix**
- 7. Plotinus**
- 8. Genialis**
- 9. Martianus**
- 10. Januarius**
- 11. Ingeniosus**