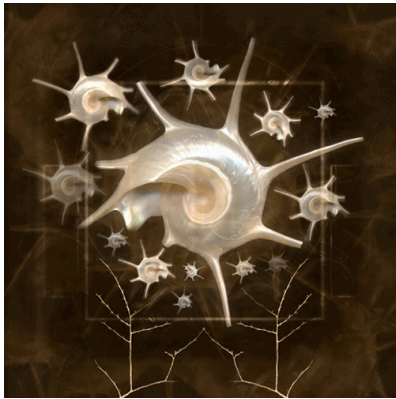


<i>Project Title</i>	"Litany of Loreto"
<i>Image Title</i>	"Stella Matutina - Morning Star" "
<i>Medium</i>	Iris giclee print on Arches Cold Press
<i>Size example</i>	"Stella Matutina - Morning Star " 30" x 30" unframed
<i>Artist</i>	Lisa A. Johnston
<i>Style</i>	Montage Photography
<i>Synopsis</i>	This image is part of a series currently in progress and is a visual study on the names given to Mary the mother of Jesus in the "Litany of Loreto", a solemn litany of titles sung or prayed in honour of the Virgin Mary. The imagery is concerned with examining these <i>titles</i> through contemporary photographic technique which is supplied heavily with the vigorous usage of religious and poetic literary symbolism and iconography.

*Particular Image Statement*



This particular image Stella Matutina - Morning Star is a visual interpretation of this title and theme. The Virgin Mary is the spiritual vessel to which God will pour out His love for all men and to fulfill His covenant with humanity by sending us the Messiah.

As reference points for understanding the imagery the following quotations are invited:

Saint Bernard to explain the meaning of the name "Mary," suggests and announces the rising sun of justice, Jesus Christ (Mal. 4:3). The glory of her light is but light from eternal light, and praise of the never-ending light of God's love for us.

The biblical/theological foundation of this title may be based on 1 Kings 18:41-45. This text refers to a little cloud appearing above the sea as a sign of hope implying that rain will come and free the land from drought. The little cloud (small as a man's hand) seen from Mt. Carmel is believed to be the "Star of the Sea" and Mary, thus, the sign of hope which announces freedom and renewal. The Carmelites built a church on Mt. Carmel and gave it the title "Stella Maris."

"Mary Star of the Sea must be followed in faith and morals lest we capsize amidst the storm-tossed waves of the sea. She will illumine us to believe in Christ born of her for the salvation of the world." -- Paschasius Radbertus (d. 865):

"Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple; and there were flashes of lightning, voices, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail. And a great portent appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars" (Rev 11:19 - 12:1)

Saint Bonaventure compares *Stella matutina* as the one who guides to a landfall in heaven those who navigate the sea of this world in the "ship of innocence or penance." Our Lady aids not only sailors, she assists those who sail the stormy seas of life.

The Hymn Stella Maris:

Hail bright star of ocean,  
God's own Mother blest,  
Ever sinless Virgin,  
Gate of heavenly rest  
Taking that sweet Ave  
Which from Gabriel came,  
Peace confirm within us,  
Changing Eva's name.  
Break the captives' fetters,  
Light on blindness pour,

All our ills expelling,  
Every bliss implore.  
Show thyself a Mother;  
May the Word Divine,  
Born for us thy Infant,

Hear our prayers through thine  
Virgin all excelling,  
Mildest of the mild,  
Freed from guilt, preserve us,  
Pure and undefiled.  
Keep our life all spotless,  
Make our way secure,  
Till we find in Jesus  
Joy for evermore  
Through the highest heaven  
To the Almighty Three  
Father, Son, and Sprit  
One same glory be, Amen.

"When the Virgin was born the day broke; for Mary, herald of the true light, brightened the sky with the glory of dawn by her birth. She is the morning star in the midst of the cloud that, gleaming with great splendor in the height of heaven, colors the world below with more splendid rays. She is the dawn that precedes, or rather gives birth, to the sun of justice, yielding to it alone in brightness" - Pseudo-Damian "Sister of Wisdom" Barbara Newman.

"Prayers and chants should draw their inspiration and their wording from the Bible, and above all that devotion to the Virgin should be imbued with the great themes of the Christian message. This will ensure that, as they venerate the Seat of Wisdom, the faithful in their turn will be enlightened by the divine word, and be inspired to live their lives in accordance with the precepts of Incarnate Wisdom. – Pope Paul VI MARIALIS CULTUS

#### Visual Symbols

Contained within this image are many symbolisms including: (from top to bottom):

- **Guilfordia yoka (Star Shell)** - represents divine guidance and favor, especially the star of Bethlehem that led the Three Wise men to the Christ Child. Twelve stars may represent the twelve tribes of Israel or the twelve apostles. The Queen of Heaven is crowned with twelve stars.. Shells are also used in art as symbols of birth and fertility.
- **12 Stars** – Revelation 11:19 – 12:1 A woman crowned with 12 stars.
- **Crown symbol** – In a mystic sense the crown denote the "bride of Christ". This symbolises her sovereignty as Queen of Heaven.
- **Tree Branches** – The branches are used to form the shape of a *Chalice* which is an emblem of faith. Also, the branch is used as a symbol of Christ. The "tree of life" is mystical symbol and common to many world religions. The prophet Isaiah "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." [IS 11:1] The branch is also a prefiguration of the tree upon which Christ will be crucified and Redeem all men.
- **White color of shell** - emblematic of virgin chastity, integrity and humility. Also, the humble supplication of heart and soul

