



Mary, Mother of God

Some people, in answering questions on a survey as to why the Church has January 1 as a Holy Day of Obligation, responded by saying, “Well, it’s New Year’s Day.” Well, it certainly is New Year’s Day, but that is the secular holiday we celebrate today. The Church’s “New Year’s Day” was celebrated on the First Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the liturgical year. In any case, today marks the first day of 2017. For many people it is a time to reflect upon the past year and make some plans or resolutions for the coming year. We certainly cannot go back into time and do or undo anything in 2016 (until a time machine is invented, of course!) However, we know that many opportunities lie before us in the new year...opportunities to love, forgive and be forgiven, extend peace and be good stewards of God’s gifts to us.

The feast that we celebrate today, Mary as the Mother of God, recalls the oldest title that we have of our Blessed Mother. Mary, indeed, has many titles, but research indicates that “Mother of God” is the oldest. This title indicates two things: that if we refer to Mary as Mother of God, then we are saying that Jesus is truly God and that Mary is truly Jesus’ mother. As on any feast day of Mary, we learn something of Jesus, as well as His mother. In the end, all Marian feasts point to our Lord as our Blessed Mother wishes to bring us closer to her Son.

We are told in today’s Gospel that “Mary kept all these things, reflecting upon them in her heart.” Since we look up to and try to imitate our Blessed Mother, her reflective nature is worth looking into. As we go through life in this world, we will need to reflect on events that make up our daily existence and how we respond to them as well as how we may act, think and speak dealing with our brothers and sisters. Mary did not always understand the mysterious events of her own life being the mother of Jesus. However, her great faith that God was leading the way allowed her to say “Yes” to the Lord, time after time. May we also say “Yes” to God in all that He asks of us, trusting as Mary did, that God will always provide what we need to carry out His will.

May God bless all of you in this new year of 2017 and grant you good health of body, mind and spirit!

Father David