

Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

Faith in Laity Corner



Mary Mother of God
Monday, January 01, 2018

Year 2/Cycle B

Sir.2:6-14, Lk:2:22-40

Be It Done

Welcome in the New Year 2018, with good wishes and high hopes!! Yet, these hopes, good intentions, and resolutions last just as long as the Christmas pine tree (*the real one*); the good wine wears off and the real cold sets in, and things return to the regular routine. What happened between that Ole Year's night that has us so anxious to 'kick' it off and with joy and toasting towards the new one? Well, let us examine this closely. We celebrated the Nativity Feast, the loss of St. Stephen, the Innocent babies and drop into the Feast of the Holy Family, then to the Feast of Mary Mother of God. Yes, things swing around fast during this season, we are all caught up with the gifts, the friends, family, shopping, travel, food, and entertainment; some of us recognize that these important events are also taking place. Some of us make it to Mass, and many of us are too caught up with the cold, snow or fatigue to consciously reflect on what has been happening in our faith.

It may be significant that the Feast of the Holy Family comes in the day before the Feast of Mary, Mother of God. These are so connected; we may miss the link. Jesus was born not only into a human family but by coming into a human unit, His mother was elevated from the time of her conception designated to become the Mother of God. As we examined the life of Mary let us recall that

The "Lord confirms a mother's authority over her sons." (Sir. 3:2)

The honor conferred upon Mary give her authority over the Son of God, she was given the singular honor to provide his first nourishment and experience of a mother's love. An in-

interesting thought, so the fact that there are questions on *why we Catholics should honor Mary*, can be totally struck down. As one reflects on this fact, that God through the voice of His messenger Gabriel elevated her above all women with these words....

*“Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you..... “For you
have found favor with God.” (Lk.1:28, 30)*

Powered by the Holy Spirit, Mary’s cousin Elizabeth pronounces these words

“Most blessed are you among women,” (Lk. 1:42)

Nowhere in human history has anyone been given this singular honor as Mary was given. We have to be logical if Jesus was born as the Son of Man, God Incarnate, then the vessel which provided His nourishment has to be unique and display characteristics which are exceptional. If where sin exists, God does not, then.... Mary could not be in a state of sin. Now could she? If God chose her to be blessed among women; then we have to honor the favor bestowed on her by God, out of respect for Him.

Mary is unique she, there were so many things unexplainable in Mary's life, yet she kept these incidents near her heart, she wondered but never questioned. It was not the type of incidents that others could understand, Mary did not know what to expect next.

*“The child's father and mother were amazed at what was
said about Him.” (Lk. 2:33)*

What a sad prediction for a mother to hear from a stranger in the temple! Would this really happen to my son? In the temple, a strange old man, recorded as Simeon rushes forth takes the baby from Mary's arms and makes this statement.

*“Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel,
and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you
yourself a sword will pierce)” (Lk, 2:34-35)*

What do you think to say when a mother hears that her heart will be pierced with sorrow? At what should have been a special and happy occasion for any family, has suddenly turned into a feeling of uncertainty and fear for this young mother. Yes. Mary has no end to her share of fears, uncertainties, and sorrows; yet her life was anchored on the words

“Let it be done unto me according to Your Word.” (Lk, 1:38)

Mary's ability to trust God with absolute simplicity and humility is what attracts us to Mary, Mother of God. Yes, her motherhood as a model mother for the Holy Family is confirmed again as God saw in her the qualities and heart that would be accepting of His Will regardless of the cost.

As we begin this 2018, perhaps we need to ask Mary to help us to say the words not because we fully understand the reason *why* of God or to our mind it makes no sense; but knowing that Mary was able to have the absolute trust in God it is hoped that we too be able to always voice.... **Be it done.....** 2018 Blessings.



During the 2018 year may we commit to praying for blessings, love, forgiveness, and healing among our families, friends, our neighbors, communities, state, country, and peace in our world.

Faith in Laity Corner is a weekly review of Sunday's readings written by

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