

## **MARY – THE MOTHER OF GOD**

**December 31, 2021**

### **MODEL FOR ALL MOTHERS**

Today we celebrate another mystery of our Catholic faith, that God has been begotten by a woman. The Creator has taken a creature as His mother. Mary being the mother was prophesied by Isaiah: “A virgin shall conceive a son and he shall be called Emmanuel – God is with us,” (Isa.7:14). It became a reality during the Annunciation. (Lk.1:35). Therefore, Mary “conceived the Trinity”. From Her would come the Son who would bring permanent blessing to God’s people, different from the blessing of Aaron and his sons, as we heard in the first reading.

Mary is the Mother of God because Jesus is God; He told the Jews: “The Father and I are one,” (Jn.10:30). Again, He said to Philip: “To have seen me is to have seen the Father,” (Jn.14:9). Elizabeth also testified to that when Mary visited her. She told Mary: “Why should I be honored with a visit from the Mother of my Lord?” (Lk.1:42).

Mary was a Mother described by Jesus, that whoever hears the Word of God and keeps it is His mother or sister or brother. Mary kept the word and pondered over it. She has become a model for all mothers. She was a humble, obedient and a responsible mother. She and Joseph took the child Jesus to the Temple and presented Him to the Father (God) as the custom demanded, (Lk.2:22-23). She searched for Her Son when He could not be found among relatives when returning from Jerusalem; (Lk.2:41-45).

She showed Her motherly love at the wedding at Cana when the wine for the celebration got finished. She asked Her son to come to the rescue of the couple; (Jn.2:1-11). She did not leave Her Son alone in His suffering but followed Him to His final time on the cross. She shared in Her Son’s suffering. Was She not affected when Jesus was considered a glutton, drunkard, and friend of sinners?

Mary has restored the dignity of women and has erased the negative ideas about women in ages past, because of the disobedience of Eve. That is why St. Paul told the Galatians that “when the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman”. Mary’s life should be a shining example for all mothers. Mothers should learn from Her spiritual life, how She pondered on the word of God. She teaches

mothers to be steadfast and entrust their cares on God. She tells them to be responsible and caring. Some women have given birth, but they are not mothers, because they do not show motherly love to their children.

This feast also reminds us of the role mothers play in our lives. Each and every one was born by a woman and so we have mothers. We have to be grateful to our mothers for the breast milk they gave us, and the sleepless nights they experienced when we were young and could not express ourselves when something was wrong with us. Our mothers have experienced, and continue to experience physical, psychological, and emotional pain and suffering in various ways. We are to obey them and serve them always because they are sources of blessing.

How do we show our appreciation for the sacrifices made by our mothers? Some people don't want friends to know who their mothers are because they are poor or physically or mentally challenged. Some people have no time for their mothers in their old age. They consider them to be troublesome. But we have forgotten that we were more troublesome when young, and moreover, we shall reach their stage one day.

What can mothers teach their daughters to be faithful wives and good mothers? To be a good wife and mother, one has to be a good woman. She should know how to behave and live as a woman. So, mothers should teach their daughters to be good women so that they will be good wives and good mothers.