

Homily Mary Mother of God 2013

The liturgy today brings together two different themes: first, it celebrates the fact that Mary is the Mother of God; second, it is the world day of prayer for peace. It is worthwhile to explore how these two themes are united.

Mary becomes the Mother of God by her radical openness to God's will. Mary said, "let it be done to me according to your word." And she then conceived by the Holy Spirit. Mary was so receptive to God's plan that she was able to give life to his only Son and make him bodily present in the world. There is a lesson here for every believer. Like Mary, we ought to be totally open to God's will. Our lives should be guided and directed by his plan. His laws expressed in the commandments and teachings of the Church should be the supreme guide for our lives. His will for each us, discerned by prayerful attention to his word, should shape and form our daily choices as well as our bigger decisions involving matters such as our life vocation. In this way we, like Mary, make Christ more present in the world.

By her radical openness to God's will, Mary also becomes Our Lady of Peace. She brings the Prince of Peace into the world, the God-man who will reconcile the human race with God by his sacrificial death on the cross. Moreover, Christ will also launch the reconciliation of all peoples through his self-offering, for by faith in him individuals of all races, nations, and walks of life are brought together into the one divinely formed family that is the Church. By imitating Mary's exemplary obedience to God, we can become a force for peace. This openness to God's will means that we must also be open to all other people created in God's image and likeness. God desires that all men and women be brothers and sisters in Christ. It is the Lord's wish that there be peace between himself and all creation, especially among the people of the world. If we desire to be God's children, we must also desire to be brothers and sisters to every other human being as well. Let's pray that God's grace will help us open our hearts to all people during this Year of Faith, that our Church may become more a force for peace on earth for all people.