

ADAM AND EVE? OR JESUS AND MARY?

The Feast of Mary Queen of the World is matched with the feast that we celebrate in the Church at the end of November: the Feast of Christ the King.

Christ is our King. Mary is our Queen. They always go together: Christ is King of Heaven and Earth and Mary is Queen.

How did Mary get to be Queen? Quite simply, Christ would never have been born unless Mary had said yes. All of human salvation – the whole of God’s plan – depended on one word from one woman when the angel

appeared to her and asked her to be the mother of the Son of God.

“Yes, let it be done unto me according to your word,” she replied.

When you look at all of salvation history, there are two women who really counted and two men who really counted.

Adam and Eve were asked by God, you can have the garden, you can have immortality, you can have anything you want except one thing.

They disobeyed God. We’re going to do it our way and not your way, they said.

And so sin entered the world.

All that was reversed by the new Eve and the new Adam. Mary first, when she said yes, I’ll do what God wants, and Jesus, who through his whole life said, Father, not my will but yours be done.

There’s the whole Bible, the whole of salvation history. Old Adam, Old Eve; New Adam, New Eve. Because Mary was essential to God’s plan, she is raised up and seated at the right hand of her son Jesus.

We’re invited to make the same decision: Are we going

to go the Adam and Eve way or are we going to go the way of Jesus and Mary?

You wouldn’t be here today if you’re not on the side of Jesus and Mary, right?

No one’s going to say, No, forget it, Bishop.

Most Catholics say that until there’s something that makes a hard decision, whether it’s right to life; marriage and family issues; something that Christ and the Church say that goes against the tenets of your political party, or on and on.

That’s where people have to make the same decision Adam and Eve had to make, that our Blessed Mother made and, of course, Jesus made.

Are you with Christ and with Mary or you’re going to go the other way?

It’s a very good question. Whenever I meet with teenagers or young adults, we



The procession at the Mass celebrating the Memorial of the Queenship of Mary included this statue of Our Lady.

have discussions about the Catholic faith. They’ll usually say, even with me there in their group, I love the church and all that, but of course I don’t believe this thing. Everyone’s got their one exception.

We’re all called to conversion, to give our total yes to the Heavenly Father like Mary did. Yes, I believe you; yes, I want to be your disciple; yes, I want to be your child.

Today you will be invited to renew that yes to our Heavenly Father by making an Act of Consecration to Our Lady, and asking her to protect us; to be not only our Queen but our mother. A mother’s love is always there, and she’s always listening. She will always hear and answer our prayer.

This column is derived from Bishop Barber’s homily at the Aug. 22 Mass celebrating the Memorial of the Queenship of Mary, patron of the Diocese of Oakland. •



BY BISHOP MICHAEL C. BARBER, SJ

Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ has been bishop of the Diocese of Oakland since May 25, 2013.

PROCESSION PHOTO
BY BROTHER CHRIS
GARCIA, OFM CONV



**We’re all called to conversion, to give our total
yes to the Heavenly Father like Mary did.
Yes, I believe you; yes, I want to be your disciple;
yes, I want to be your child.**