

New Day. Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, January 1, 2024

On the 25th of December, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the prince of peace (Isaiah 9:6). Today, we celebrate Mary as the Holy Mother of God. Theotokos in Greek. Is Mary truly the Mother of God? We are not establishing facts in the abstract; we look at them in sacred scripture and sacred tradition. Thomas, one of His disciples, acknowledged that Jesus is God when he said, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28). Saint Paul also wrote, though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. (Philippians 2:6). In John 1:1, we are told that "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." In verse 14, John said, It was the Word that was made flesh and dwelt among us." Jesus himself claims the name of God when he says, "Amen, Amen I say to you, before Abraham was I AM." (John 8:58), and lastly, Jesus said I and the Father are one (John 10:30).

With this simple fact, we can say if Jesus is God, and Mary gave birth to Jesus, logically, Mary is the Mother of God.

As a mother, she always has free access to her son, and her son never deserts her, which is why we come to the son through her to ask for her intercession. As we begin this new year 2024, we need her to accompany us to her son Jesus so that in this year he will bless us and keep us, and his face will shine upon us and he will be gracious to us, especially in our world that is lacking peace. We ask for her intercession so that the Lord will look upon us kindly and give us peace, as we heard in our first reading. The psalmist said, May God bless us in his mercy.

The journey of the year 2024 can only be possible and fruitful through the mercy of God. This suggests that we need God every day of our lives, for without him we can do nothing, as the apostle John wrote in his gospel (15:5). If God remains our Father, we should not hesitate to call him and to allow him to dwell in us so that we can continue to call him "Abba Father!" Remember, we are no longer slaves but sons and daughters of God. How long shall we continue to be slave of sin? Let us, in our New Year's Resolution, allow God to take charge of us, and we shall be happy this year. In the gospel reading, we were told Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Mary understood the secrets of her son's existence and the mystery of his life, so she kept pondering in her mind. As we journey in this New Year, there may be other activities and challenges of life. Like Mary, we must ponder more about the Words of God and keep them at the very center of our being.

Thanks to all of you for being part of this beautiful journey we had last year; you are the reason for every success we have achieved. I urged you all to become part of this year's journey again. God's blessings are upon you and your family. Happy New Year to you all.

peace,

Fr. Jingbe Simon

