

***Octave of Christmas Ends***  
**SOLEMNITY OF MARY,**  
**THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**  
**Luke 2.16-21**  
**December 31/January 1, 2021**  
**Deacon Victor Mesta**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

In the next few hours, we will say goodbye to 2020. It was a year full of emotions – for some joyful, for others sad. Some will remember it mainly for COVID-19.

... But we all wonder what the New Year will bring us?. .. Will our plans be fulfilled? ... We don't know. ... So what can we do? ...

On the first day of the New Year, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God to emphasize the importance of Mary's role in the life of Christ and of the Church.

All of us know that the Virgin Mary is the Mother of Jesus, but she is consequently the Mother of God, because she is the mother of the eternal son of God made man, who is God himself, this was dogmatically defined at the Council of Ephesus in 431.

... and today the Church presents Mary to us, and invite us to: "Look at her, imitate her, and live each day as she did.

How many beautiful things we can learn from Mary ...

Do you recall, when the faith of the disciples was most tested by difficulties and uncertainties. Jesus entrusted them to Mary, who was the first to believe, the first Christian whose faith would never fail.

Do you recall the wedding of Cana? Jesus listened to Mary and did as she asked for the guests.

Do you remember Calvary? She kept alive the flame of faith in the resurrection of her Son.

Brothers and Sisters, Mary knows well how to carry out God's will and overcoming struggles in life. And who among us has not had to face struggles in life.

Mary did not know what path she would have to follow, what pain she would have to suffer, what risks she would have to face, but even so, Mary saw the work of God in the events of her life and she reflected on them in her heart.

And, God speaks to us through the scriptures, but also through the events of our daily lives. He did it this year, and he will continue doing it in the New Year. That is why we need to take-on the attitude of Mary, the attitude of listening and reflecting on the word of God.

Brothers and Sisters, we must ask our Blessed Mother help us to reflect on all that is happening in our world in light of God's plan for our lives.

We may not understand things, especially the "why." And so often we can get confused and discouraged. Why do some people live and some people die? Why is evil permitted? Why is there injustice in our society?

But the fact is, that we cannot know the mind of God. But we can always know his love for us.

Brothers and Sisters, Mary is a source of hope and faith for us. She never doubts God, nor her son Jesus.

... and she did everything that a mother does for her child. She was close to him at all times even during his crucifixion, because motherhood is forever, it does not matter to a mother how old her son is, because for her he will always be her son, always be a piece of her heart, and we are a piece of her heart too.

We are blessed by having Mary as our heavenly mother, and the Church tells us today, that we should prepare ourselves for the beginning of the New Year by asking to our Most Beloved Mother, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, to come to help-us .... Don't be afraid to turn to her. She will point you to her Son. .... Amen