

Mary, Mother of God

January 1, 2010



From the cluttered desk of Fr. Kevin

A new year is upon us and as always we are invited to begin our new year under the protection and guidance of the Blessed Mother, Mary.

As the people of God we are encouraged to take Mary as our model of discipleship and loving parent. Might I suggest that we try this year to make Mary's "yes" our "yes". That we strive to love and accept as Mary did.

Every year we are invited to make New Year's resolutions an opportunity to make changes in our lives. These are always lovely ideas. I know this is a bit late, but let me offer some thoughts to you.

That we all might love more deeply.

That we might honor and respect each other more faithfully.

That no harsh or hurtful words will come from our mouths.

That we only speak well of our neighbors and friends.

That we learn to live in peace with each other.

Peace, Fr. Kevin

Queen of the Poor

Gifts of the Magi glittered in Mary's hands. Her hands caressed the shapely jar of myrrh, the costly, delicately carved chest in which the fragrant incense lay. These were craftsmen's creations of beauty, and for that she loved them. But the jingling coins in their heavy bag did not win her caress. Quieting their noise clatter, she ranged them beside the other gifts without a word.

Joseph watched her face for some indication of her thought. He was a poor man but not destitute. He had married her in the hope that he might care for her, simple but adequately. There was a further question now. Would that simple care be enough for God's son? Dared he refuse this wealth thrust so suddenly into their hands?

As though she read his mind, Mary smiled at him. In that smile he read her deep content with their poverty, her trust in his strong hands to provide for her and Jesus.

"Tomorrow," she said, still smiling, "you'll make a small box, Joseph, and we shall keep the gifts for Him."

He nodded eagerly. That was it. When Jesus was of age, He might use the gifts as He pleased.

Neither Mary nor Joseph guessed that, in another night, they would be on their way, gifts and Child, to Egypt, and happy to use there the treasure of the Magi. So that the grown-up Child would hear His Mother tell the story, always to add, "God provided for us in that strange land." And Joseph would agree thoughtfully, saying "Our God was good." Sr. Mary Julian Baird R.S.M.

Happy New Year!