

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

The New Year is a time when we have a lot of expectations. We all look forward to good tidings, which is a very positive way of thinking, hoping for things to be better; also making our resolutions for the New Year. When we are planning for the New Year, let us involve God. Most of the time, when things don't work according to our expectations, that's when we remember to call upon God.

As we begin a New Year on the feast day of the Motherhood of Mary, it is proper to connect its significance with this feast. We are called to imitate the following features of Mary's motherhood: receiving the Word of God in faith, treasuring it in her heart and pondering over its significance. Mary is a model of reflection and introspection on how we lived the past year and how we are going to live the New Year. As we celebrate the Motherhood of Mary, let us remember she is the mother of Jesus and all the human race as well. Because Mary is our mother, she is a powerful advocate for us in Heaven. To ignore Mary's motherly concern for us is to ignore God's gift of her motherhood to us.

The New Year is a new stage in our life to examine the past and look forward to the future. Socrates said, "An unexamined life is not worth living." As Mary pondered over the words of the shepherds (God's word) and the events that took place in her life, we too are invited today to reflect over the events of the past year and compare them with the purpose, vision and mission of our life. In spite of the failures of the past and the unknown future, we must look forward to the future with hope.

All of us gathered here, I know, had one or two things we wanted to accomplish or fulfil in 2020 that did not materialize. As we have heard from the second reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Galatians: "When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as his children" (Gal 4:4-7). Since you are his children, God will give you all that He has for His children.

God's time is the best. He gives us what we need, not what we want at the time, no matter how long it might take. As you usher in the New Year, may you remember all God did for you and your family. For what you did not receive, never give up, and continue trusting in Him. He is our hope and will continue to be our hope. Have a blessed Happy New Year!

- Fr. Peter Patrick Kimani
December 31, 2020