

JANUARY 1, 2017



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD THE OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



NUMBERS 6:22-27

PSALM 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8

GALATIANS 4:4-7

LUKE 2:16-21

REFLECTION

The Blessed Mother is a model and exemplar of our faith. She shines as the ultimate example of how God's desire works through the most unexpected of means and people. Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. As a new calendar year ushers in, we pause to reflect upon this young woman who said "yes!" to God's plan. Place yourself in the story we hear from Luke's account of the Gospel today. Shepherds rush to find Mary and Joseph with the infant. They share the exciting news that the angels had shared with them and that they have now seen with their own eyes. The Messiah has come in the person of this newborn child. Ancient hope was now being realized in Jesus' birth. Amazement was the response of others who heard this message, while "Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart" (Luke 2:19). There is a depth to Mary's response in this passage, as the heart symbolizes the spiritual center of a person. May we too, on this solemnity and throughout Christmas Time, take God's revelation into our hearts and be transformed.

ACTION

Today is New Year's Day. New Year's resolutions are being made and family traditions are being celebrated. Challenge yourself on this threshold of a new year to open your heart to Christ's presence in your life. What are the things that you need to resolve to do in your life to make this a possibility? What needs to be cleared out so that your heart can be open? Make a New Year's resolution that connects with your spiritual life and strive throughout the coming days, weeks, and months to live with a heart open to God making all things new in you.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

● Mary said "yes" when presented with God's plan in her life. What is God asking of you today? If it is difficult to know what God is asking of you, are there areas of your life that need to be cleared out so that you might be able to hear God's voice in your life? Spend some time reflecting and writing about this.