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NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION

MONTHLY FOCUS: EDUCATION

OUR FAMILY At Christmas

When we contemplate the Motherhood of our Blessed Mother Mary, how our hearts are filled with wonder, gratitude and with an unexplainable reverent silence of God's unconditional love for us. Before us stands a mother, a wife, a daughter and a woman who in the midst of turmoil responded to the call to be the mother of the Most High God. Today because of Mary, we are privileged to be connected with God through her in our families in a most human, hopeful, fragile and tangible form.



At Christmas we are not only given the gift of Jesus, but also the gift of Mary and Joseph, the first family – a role model for all of us. It's an exemplification of love, care, simplicity, unity and obedience to God's word. Christmas is not always about gifts, decoration, sweets, snowman, Santa Claus, and painting the town red & green. It's about celebrating love, care, togetherness and respect within our families, just as the Holy Family did in Bethlehem.

How can this Blessed Young Mother, even fathom the unfolding of each event in her life including the visit from the shepherds as in today's gospel (Luke 2: 16-21)? She wasn't a superwoman. She is the mother and the living Model of our Church's call to Hope, Believe, Live and Give, more so in our families today, where we have become slaves of our wants and quests for answers at our finger tips.

Sometimes life's challenging uncertainties breaks our families and relationships as we struggle to find God and at the same time wanting things our way preventing us to be fully alive. **Mary's own stance in her family life is visible with; patient endurance, joyful waiting, hope in God, ponderment and prayer.** Lovely as it sounds; in fact today these may be of no meaning and place in the hearts of some of our families, just like there was no room in the inn for Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Perhaps we need to stop and do a reality faith check this Christmas.

If Mary who was given Jesus, how much more, she would want us to know that Jesus is already given to our families? Mary and Joseph still shared Jesus to the shepherd's despite of "No Room in the Inn" in the most unassuming place. We need to ask ourselves where is this unassuming place? We won't find God on our finger tips but in the most unassuming place that is our heart. We need to revisit EMMANUEL who is already there in our families this Christmas. ✦

SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

As for Mary,
she treasured
all these
things and
pondered
them in her
heart.

(Luke 2:19)

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Number 6: 22-27;

Psalms 66: 2-3,5,6,8;

Galatians 4: 4-7;

Luke 2: 16-21.



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BUL 01/2023