

## HOMILY MARY MOTHER OF GOD YRA 2019

I had a situation recently that I want to share with you. Someone recently asked me to go to the hospital with them. They were having a procedure and they wanted me to be there. This was an unusual request, but I could see why they wanted me there and I told them I absolutely would be there. If I had anything else on the schedule that day I would cancel it. That night when I got out my book to write this one the calendar I did have something else scheduled. It was something that could be rescheduled, but it would involve moving half dozen things around and it involved multiple people. There was nothing I could do that evening so I thought I will pray about it in the morning. When I prayed about it in the morning all I got is that I am supposed to do both of these things. That morning I saw the individual at Mass that wanted me to go to the hospital with her. I thought I should talk to her about the conflict but there were a line of people waiting to talk to me so I never got to her. When I got to the office I tried to call her but she did not pick up. I thought I should start rescheduling what I already had on the calendar, but I was still getting the message that I should do both of these things, so I did nothing. Later that day when I was checking my email, the individual that wanted me to take them to the hospital said that their procedure was rescheduled and they hoped it would still fit into my schedule. I was supposed to do both of these things. Do you think this was just a coincidence? This idea that I was supposed to do both of these things did not make sense to me because I did not see how that could happen. And I am not a procrastinator. Normally I take care of things right away. I am glad I listened to that intuition I was getting from God.

In the Gospel reading today, Mary got some information that she did not understand. The shepherds told her the message that they received and she was amazed. Why was she amazed? The angel Gabriel had already told her this. I think we hear these accounts and we think that

Mary instantly had this amazing insight. Mary was human just like us. When she got these revelations they did not necessarily make sense to her. The Gospel reading says: “Mary kept all these things reflecting on them in her heart.” In contemplative prayer she had to find the meaning in the events and in the messages she received. That is generally how our lives play out. We do not get these sudden bursts of tremendous insights. Our lives unfold one step at a time.

Now the situation I described to you earlier was not terribly profound, but that was the way it was supposed to play out. If I had cancelled on taking the woman to the hospital, when the procedure was rescheduled she probably would have thought: “Fr. Jim is too busy. I cannot count on him. I will ask someone else.” Or I could have spent a couple of days rescheduling something that did not need to be rescheduled. When I got the insight that I was supposed to do both of those things, it did not make sense at the time, but now it does.

None of us knows what 2020 is going to bring. We have our plan, but your life is unlikely to play out the way you have planned. I think we should follow Mary’s example and keep all of these things reflecting upon them in our heart. I also think we should share out experiences with others the way I did today. It helps other to see how God works in the world. If you have not written I Faith Sharing experience yet for the bulletin, write it down and send it to me. Someone may be just waiting to hear your story.