

HOMILY MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD 2018

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God. I think Mary is a great role model for us spiritually. In the Gospel reading today we heard an account of the Annunciation of the shepherds to Mary and Joseph. They heard the message that had been made known to them by the angel. “And Mary kept all of these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” Mary had a similar response to Jesus in the Gospel reading that we heard this past weekend, the account of Jesus being lost in the temple. Jesus told his parents: “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know I must be in my Father’s house? They did not understand but his mother kept all of these things in her heart.” What exactly does this mean? It means that Mary prayed about these things that she did not understand. And this is a particular type of prayer meditation. We have to kind of sit with things we do not understand with God and wait for him to inform us. We have a conversation with God and wait for his answer. That is what Mary did. We sometimes think: “What is the big deal. It is obvious what the Shepherds and Jesus meant.” It is obvious to us because we know the end of the story. Mary didn’t, remember she was between 12 and 16 years old at the time. I am sure she waited for a long time for her answers, but eventually things unfolded and she figured them out. We are doing the same thing. We need to figure out what is happening in our lives as we go along and sometimes we need to let them unfold. Our temptation in our lives is if we do not get an immediate answer we answer for ourselves and move forward. This is a mistake. We need to reflect upon them in our hearts and wait for God’s answer. We need to meditate and allow our lives to unfold and become more comfortable with not having all of the answers.

Today is New Year’s Day. I invite you to spend some time meditating about the past year. Hold 2018 in your heart. Start by listing all of the blessings that you have received. We

are very blessed and sometimes we do not realize just how blessed we are. I suggest that you write them down. Make a list. Next I suggest that identify all of the illusions and self deceptions, all of the excuses and rationalization. Write those down and forgive yourself. Next, write down all of the hurts that others have caused you and forgive them. Then let the past be the past. Next, reflect on the future and pick one thing that you want to do in the New Year to move forward spiritually. Pick one thing and write it down. Pick something that is doable for you. Some examples: I am going to pray for 10 minutes every day; I am going to attend Mass every weekend; I am going to forgive my sister and try and reconcile with her; I am going to volunteer for something at St. Edith. Reflect on it in your heart. Let God tell you what he wants you to do.