

A New Year with Mary

Dear friends in Christ,

It is very fitting that as people of faith, we begin the new year with the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God. In the year 431, the Council of Ephesus declared Mary the Mother of God to defend the unity of Christ's person and to reject any teaching that in Christ there were two different persons, one divine and the other a merely human person born of Mary. She is the Mother of God by humanly conceiving the Son of God, Jesus Christ, in her womb. As such, all of us who share in the life of Christ, are beneficiaries of the spiritual motherhood of Mary.

St. Luke, from whose gospel we heard on January 1, portrays Mary as the handmaid of the Lord and the closest follower of Christ, who hears God's Word, receives it in her heart and keeps it. She was involved in the mysteries of Christ. Since Mary is the closest follower of Jesus Christ, whenever we prayerfully fly to her protection, we gain the greatest access to Jesus Christ.

As we begin 2021, it is a time for new beginnings and resolutions. I encourage you to resolve that in 2021, God will not take the back seat but will always be factored in all your plans and decisions. No one knows how to do this better than Our Blessed Mother, Mary. Your new year's resolution can begin with renewing your devotion to Mary. Try to pray the rosary every day, especially when you need to make a major decision. Pray one Hail Mary each day for different individuals. Pray one Hail Mary each day for an end to the COVID-19 pandemic. Try to attend our First Saturday devotions. In our parish, First Saturdays have always been dedicated to Mary devotionally with confessions, rosary, and Mass in the morning in honor of the Immaculate Heart.

When you try to bring God into your decision-making process, just like Mary you will find yourself making the same progression from trying to understand the will of God in your life to a firm faith, and that is what the Christian life is about.

I pray that the Our Savior Jesus Christ and His Mother Mary may enrich your lives with healing, hope, and love during the New Year.

*--Fr. Anthony Ahamefule
Parish Priest*