

The Wisdom of Mary-01/01/23

Children take after their **parents**; their parents' **example** hopefully teaches them how to be healthy human beings.

The same thing is true for our **spiritual life**.

In today's Second Reading, St Paul reminds us that through God's grace we have all become brothers and sisters of Christ and, therefore, **children of God**.

This is what happens at **baptism**. At that moment we are **born again**, supernaturally; God infuses his **divine DNA** into our souls, making it possible for us to have healthy souls.

The spiritual life consists of the **gradual spread and development of that DNA**, until each one of us hopefully becomes a **wise and mature** and a **fruitful** follower of Jesus Christ.

Today's Solemnity of **Mary the Mother of God** reminds us that if we have become Christ's spiritual brothers and sisters, we have also become the **spiritual children of Mary**.

She was and is Jesus' mother in the **flesh**, and she is **our** mother in **grace**.

And just as we learn from our **natural** mothers how to mature and grow into **good and moral human beings**, so also, we learn from **Mary** how to mature and grow into **good and faithful followers of Christ**.

She is our greatest example where we can learn every virtue that leads to true happiness and holiness in living a **Christ-like life!**

In today's Gospel she teaches us one of the most **important** virtues of all. That is **Wisdom**.

St Luke tells us how Mary **responded** to the wonderful things that God was doing in and around her. He wrote, "**Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.**"

Just as Mary's **womb** was open to receiving God's living Word at the moment of Christ's Incarnation, so was her **heart constantly open** to receiving God's **on going** words and messages as he continued to speak through the **events** of her life.

This capacity and habit of **reflecting** in our hearts on God's action in our lives is both a **sign** and a **source of wisdom**.

And we can never become **mature, courageous, and joyful** followers of Christ unless we learn from her example and open our hearts and say **“Yes”** to God.

Too often, our lives tend to be very **noisy, distracted,** and full of **self-centered worries** and **self-absorbed preoccupations.**

At any moment of the day, if we were able to take an **x-ray** of the **inner chamber** of our souls, it would probably look like a very **messy basement** or a very **cluttered garage; full of unnecessary concerns and worries.**

But Mary's inner chamber, **her soul,** was **different.** She no doubt had a **busy** life - after all, she didn't have microwave ovens, washing machines, telephones, and all the other modern **time-saving** devices, that we have.

And yet, she kept that inner chamber **neat and ordered.**

And as a result, she was able to hear the many **loving messages** that God sent to her through the events in her life.

She "**kept all these things and pondered on them in her heart.**"

Her heart was like the **smooth surface of a deep pond:** clear and quiet, and able to reflect accurately the blue sky above, the sun, and the trees. Just like mirror! Her heart was able to **reflect the light of Christ,** her Son to those around her.

Such was Mary's interior life, the secret to her wisdom was that:

"She kept all these things and reflected on them in her heart."

Mary knows that it is **hard** to keep the **clutter** out of our hearts.

We tend to get distracted by many of the events that take place in our lives, even though in the great scheme of things, they generally aren't that important.

She knows we need **help** learning how to **reflect deeply** on God's actions in our lives, and she has **given** us that help.

She has given us a **tool** for **developing our interior life**.

Everyone who has used this tool has come **closer to God** and grown in wisdom, courage, and joy.

This tool was **given by Mary in a vision to St Dominic** in the thirteenth century.

Since then, it has been used by illiterate peasants and cultured queens, popes and bishops, mothers and widows, sailors, and soldiers.

All of us **know** about it, but not enough of us **use** it. I surely don't use it enough!

I am talking about the **Rosary**. Praying the Rosary is the **key** letting us **into Mary's heart**.

Her prayers are powerful! Remember, it was at her request that Jesus began His Ministry at the Wedding in Cana, where He performed His

first miracle by turning the water into wine. Jesus had no intention of beginning His ministry, at that time, but He **was and is an obedient Son**, he listened to His mother, and He obeyed her.

Mary's prayers are powerful!

This reminds me of a time before Cindy and I became Catholic. **It's a long story, but I will give you the shortened version!** At a time in our lives, we were both very disillusioned with the direction of our Spiritual lives. We both felt there was something missing. We did not have that inner peace, that only God can give.

Well, Cindy felt an inclination, a pull from the Holy Spirit to explore the Catholic Faith. To put it mildly, I was very much against becoming Catholic, mainly because of my many misunderstandings of the true teachings of the Catholic Church. At one point, I even told her, **“Well, you can become Catholic, but I never will!”** I think God is chuckling about that.

So, at that time, before **we, or at least before I**, believed in praying to Mary, she did pray to Mary that I would open my heart and consider exploring the Catholic Faith with her. Mary answered her prayers. I made a complete 180 degree turn in my thoughts, and now, here we are!

Again, Mary's prayers are powerful.

So today is the first day of another new year—2023!

Our culture has a tradition of making a **New Year's Resolution**.

Let's make the resolution to spend this year **listening and learning from our spiritual mother** on how to let God put **peace and order, and wisdom** into our lives, by "**keeping all these things and reflecting on them in our hearts**" and by offering our prayers to God through our Mother Mary.