



Marianist Moments

Feast of Mary, Mother of God, January 1

~ Meeting aid ~



Introduction

On January 1, we celebrate the feast of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. The feast of Mary, *Mater Dei*, meaning Mother of God in Latin, or *Theotokos* in Greek, meaning God-bearer, is considered one of the oldest Marian feasts in the Church. It commemorates Mary's calling to be the Mother of Jesus Christ. Mary's divine maternity was first defined at the Council of Ephesus in 431 A.D. The invocation of Mary, Mother of God, is part of the *Sub Tuum Praesidium* prayer, the oldest Christian prayer, c. 300 AD, dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

Prayer

Adapted from the Mass to Mary, Mother of God

† Eternal God, you sent your Son from heaven into the womb of the Blessed Virgin to be your saving Word. Grant that, like Mary, we may welcome Christ by treasuring his words in our hearts and celebrating in faith the deep mysteries of our redemption. On this feast of Mary, Mother of God, we pray for the peace of Christ Jesus to reign in the hearts, minds, and souls of all of humanity and pray for your grace and mercy to spread throughout the world. We make this prayer through Jesus your Son. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Luke 2: 16-20, RSVCE

And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Silent Introspection

Marian Writings, Vol 1, 383, William Joseph Chaminade

Contemplate the following quote from Father Chaminade on Mary's divine Motherhood.

"Of her was born Jesus who is called Christ" (Mt 1:16). Here is the origin of the grandeurs of Mary and the basis of the homage which is her due: her divine maternity.



Group Sharing

Meditating on the feast of Mary, Mother of God, let us recall some instances wherein we have been led, like Mary, to ponder and treasure things in our hearts and give our consent to God's calling to bring Christ to others.



✠ May the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary. Amen