

## Homily Rerun: January 1, 2017 - Fr. Seno



My dear friends, last Sunday, we celebrated the birthday of Jesus, the Son of God. Today, with admiration, we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of that Son of God, Jesus Christ our Savior, our King and our Lord. Also today we celebrate the Principal Patroness of the Diocese of Orlando. It coincides with the ushering in of the New Year, the first day of the year in which we make New Year resolutions. Do you have any “New Year Resolutions” or should I suggest some to you? The Church has reason for this celebration today. The mother’s hands are the best hands. Mother’s hands will never hurt her child. I once witness an insane woman who gave birth in Nigeria at a place I was posted to work when I was a Seminarian. The Nuns took her child after she gave birth. She did not allow the nuns to rest by calling on them to give her child. Therefore, the church in her wisdom is soliciting the blessing and protection from her who gave birth and nurtured God to offer the same protection and care to the church and the entire humanity at the start of the New Year. Mary’s

role in our salvation is very crucial and central. She is an example of mature, joyful and spontaneous faith in action.

My dear friends, mother’s love is beyond compare. It is irreplaceable and unconditional. But how on earth can a human person ever become the Mother of God, her creator? How can a creature whom God made be parent of him who is uncreated, without beginning and the end, the alpha and omega? It is strange, illogical and incomprehensible. Mary conceived and gave birth to Jesus, and so without doubt she is the mother of Jesus. Jesus is both God and man. He is a divine person, God the Son, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. Since Jesus is a divine person, the Son of God, her mother is the mother of God. Mary is the Mother of God. This is how she got her title of the feast we are celebrating today; Mary, Mother of God. No other person or creature has even gotten this great privilege as Mary, ever virgin.

As Elizabeth said Mary, is “the Mother of my Lord” (Lk.1:43). She is also our Mother because Jesus has made us sons and daughters of God. Have we not received and believed in him? To all those who receive him, Jesus gives power to become children of God (Jn.1:12). As children of God we are the brother and sisters of Jesus, and his Mother Mary is our Mother too. Jesus clearly says this from the cross, “she is your mother” (Jn. 19:27). This is the greatest gift from Jesus to the world as he was about to go back to his father in heaven.

This brand Near Year 2017, we must imitate Mary in her prayerfulness and humility. She humbly and prayerfully stated this when she said: “he looks on his servant in her lowliness”. We must surrender to God’s will as she did when she said also that: “I am the handmaid of the Lord”. We must be obedient by allowing the will of God to be done in our lives. (Let it be done to me according to your word”). We must make her disposition our own. This year, our love for Christ must increase, remembering that in sorrow she searched for her lost son, Jesus, with Joseph for three days. We should not waste time in searching for Jesus each time we are separated from him due to sin, to look for Him this year. Our love for neighbors must mirror that of our Mother Mary bearing in mind that Mary’s visit to Elizabeth and her intervention at the wedding at Cana shows the type of love and care we human beings should exhibit to one another. Like Mary, we must show gratitude to God always and this is manifested in the Magnificat. And finally, this year our trust in Jesus must surpass that of last year, for Mary, it is always “do as he Jesus tells you”. This year we must do as Jesus tells us, not as we tell ourselves.

Let us pray:-

Let this New Year 2017, be a year of many surprises and favor. May it be a year of many blessings, blessings such as becoming better persons. Let this year reminds us that we are pilgrims on the march to our home in heaven. May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, Mother of Jesus Christ, Mother of Grace and our Mother intercede and protect us this year Amen.

### **A song to Our Lady.**

Holy Queen! We bend before thee,  
Queen of purity divine  
Make us love thee, we implore thee  
Make us truly to be thine

Refrain:

Teach, oh, teach us, Holy Mother,  
How to conquer every sin:  
How to love and help each other,  
How the prize of life to win

Thou to whom a child was given,  
Greater than the sons of men,  
Coming down from highest heaven,  
To create the world again.