

Mary, Mother of God

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Fr. Larry Richards

Happy New Year! 2010, we get a new beginning. Years ago I use to reflect on why we ever started New Years with a feast day. You know so many pagans are getting so crocked last night, nobody here but those other ones outside of here. Then they got to wake up and we have to have later Masses so that people can make it. Most people don't make it to Mass today because of different reasons, and I am thinking why do we this to the Mother of God? But the Church decides to do this because everything begins with Mary. As Mother Theresa of Calcutta, soon to be saint said, "No Mary, no Jesus." It was her cooperation with the will of the Father that brought Christ to the world. And the same thing must happen with us. But the problem is when we begin a new year God gives us a new beginning if we want it. Like you know He gave to Mary, and He gave a choice to Mary just like He gives a choice to you and me. We can do things our way or we can do things God's way. When we do things God's way as Mary did then new life and new beginnings happen.

But so often we only focus on ourselves and what we want. And whether it be our anger, or doing it our way. It is a thing doing it my way. This week as I have said my grandmother died. I sat there, it was Monday morning and I was to leave the next day. I was getting all packed and my mother calls me and says, "You know Gram Verbish died?" And I said, "Okay." But she says, "Don't worry just go to Europe." And I said, "Okay." You know and I am sitting there for next hour and I am thinking I can't do that. Okay I'm not going to Europe. I have seen Europe before so I will stay. But, I was quite irritated. Do you ever get that way. Like, hmm she picked the wrong time to die. She could have waited earlier. Waited until I come back but this is the way that it is. But it is saying no to my will and what I desire and saying yes to God's will. I am not very good with emails, very bad with them, because I get hundreds of emails a day sometimes. I sometimes read them and sometimes I don't. And sometimes I go, "Oh, I'll get back to that and I usually don't. And so these people get real mad at me and anyway it just adds to the list. But one got my attention this past week. I am at the funeral home and my cell phone rings, not rings but says I got a new message and so in between things I went and I looked and there is the guy from where ever, had a weird name and he says, "You do realize you are not a true priest?" That got my attention. And I said, "Hmmm." And then he went on to say, "because you are no more a priest than anybody else because you were ordained beyond Paul the VI. So the only true priests who can the lineage are the people before Paul the VI. And of course you are not a true priest." Well now I am just irritated. You know my grandmother is there in the coffin and I am mad. Oh I'll get you back and I responded in my typical way. "Well sir I am very glad that my priesthood does not depend on your opinion but depends on the truth of the teaching of God and His true Church." Then he responds back to me and it becoming one of those things, "You sir," as he says to me because I am not a priest, "will be rotting in hell forever." Well that is all I needed. I go, "Well I can see sir that you are a nut and you are wrong deal with it! If anyone is going to rot in hell it will be you for judging people." And so of course then he responds and he says, "After watching your DVD on the internet you are just an effeminate liar. That is what you sound like and you look like." I am an effeminate liar, hmm. Now I am mad. And some people say with this new microphone I have a lisp when I talk here, is that true? I am not an effeminate liar in case you are wondering. But anyway, so now I am mad and then I sat there and I gave it to the Lord. I said, "Lord, what should I do?" Because I was going to say, "You come to Erie and I will show you and effeminate liar you miserable..." And I sat there and I said, "Let it go." And so I had to sit there before the Lord and I

went before the Lord and I said, "I will let it go." That is what God wants me to do. What I want to do is continue the escalation. What I want to do is prove myself right. What I want to do is knock his head right off his body. That is what I want to do. I am not very gentle. But that isn't what God wants me to do. We all have these choices – we can do it our way and continue to be agitated; and continue to have no peace; and continue to be irritated or we can surrender to the will of the Father and begin again.

God wants to give you a new beginning today, in this New Year. He wants you to let go of all the things in the past you have done wrong. Things you haven't done well. Things you haven't done. The devil likes to keep us focused on our past, and our wrongs and our weaknesses. Is there anything you can do about anything in your past? No, except repent of it if you need to. Go to confession if you need to but then let it go. Let it go. You know if you listen to the second reading today and it was a beautiful second reading, it says, "The spirit God gives us cries out within us," what? "Abba." You can focus on what you are not in your sinfulness and in your weaknesses or you can focus who you are in God. You are a son of the Father. You are a daughter of the Father. You are a daughter and a son of the great Mother in Christ Jesus.

And "as Mary sat there," as it says in the Gospel "she pondered these things in her heart." That is what was transforming of her life. She continued to say that "yes" when the angel appeared to her and the yes that has to continue every day. "Mary pondered these things." If you and I would stop looking at ourselves and our past and start pondering on who we are before God and the call He has for us. Let's let go of the past today. Let's today begin again. Let's today focus on who we are – we are beloved sons and daughters of a glorious Father and a wonderful Mother. And that is who we are. And we have to ponder on that and start living that. And the way the way we live that of course is when we say yes to God's will every day.

So let's make a resolution if you will, and I don't believe much in resolutions, but that everyday now for the rest of our lives now or for at least the rest of the year, when we wake up we make sure that we look at God and say I want Your will today God more than anything else. And again when you do that you become truly a son and daughter of the Father. When you do that you bring life to the world. When you do that you bring peace to yourself and your family. And isn't that what you want this year? So let's forget about the past. Nothing we can do about it. Let's begin a new today. Today is the first day of the rest of our life truly if we say I want Your will not mine Father.

May each of you know His love today and forever, amen.