

SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
January 1, 2023

Gospel: (Luke 2:16-21)

The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in a manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them. When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Reflection:

Like the shepherds, we wish to remember the incarnation event “glorifying and praising God” and with Mary we “keep these things, reflecting on them in our hearts.” Like Mary, we must assume a contemplative stance toward God’s marvelous deeds of salvation. God revealed the divine will and plan to Mary for her part in the plan of salvation; she responded with a yes that she contemplated throughout her life. Christmas reveals God’s will for our salvation and asks of us our contemplative yes. When we wish each other “Happy New Year” as Christians, we are really wishing each other a grace-filled year of responding to God’s revelation and a year of contemplating what we have seen and heard so that we can come to understand life with more depth and insight. May our “Happy New Year” be a pledge to, like the shepherds and Mary, embrace in joy and peace God’s presence to us and in us. (Living Liturgy, p.32)

Vincentian Meditation:

“Give me a man of prayer and he will be capable of anything. He may say with the apostle, ‘I can do all things in him who strengthens me.’ –St. Vincent de Paul- (McKenna, Praying with Vincent, p. 110)

Discussion: (*Share your thoughts after a moment of silence*)

How have you discovered that as Vincentians we are called to be “contemplatives in action”?

Closing Prayer:

Mary, you who are the Mother of God, we now pray:
 -teach us how to be contemplatives in action.
Mary, wellspring of peace,
 -be our fountain of grace.
Mary, model of risk,
 -help us overcome our fears.
Mary, mother of the poor,
 -give us compassion in our service Amen

