

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, on January 1, immerses us once more in the mystery of Christmas. In Mary's womb, God became one of us, and we are reminded that Mary is the door through which Christ entered the world as a tiny Infant. The Shepherds and kings who went to see him found a tiny, helpless child in need of his mother's care, caresses and love.

Mary, the Mother of God, and our mother, awaits us at the crib ready to meet our need for her motherly care, caresses and love. She points out to us the Presence of God where we may not think of finding him.

Let us entrust this new year and ourselves to Mary, Mother of God. May we learn like her to discover God's presence and greatness in the little surprises of the things of life. Let us entrust our questions, our worries, our sufferings, our joys, and all the concerns we bear in our hearts to her for she is our Mom, our Mother, and her arms are opened wide to welcome and embrace us.

God has entrusted world peace to Mary. January 1st is a day designated to pray for peace in the world. Let us take up the summons that flows from the maternal heart of Mary to cherish life, to care for wounded lives, to restore dignity to everyone "born of woman" for this is the basis for building a culture of peace. Let us do so by responding to Mary's call at Fatima during World War I to pray the rosary every day for peace in the world. Let us entrust to her the whole world so that hope may be reborn and peace may spring up for all the peoples of the earth.

The Epiphany of the Lord announcing the manifestation of God in Jesus as the Messiah for all peoples and nations is celebrated in the USA on January 4th this year. The three kings were seeking a newborn earthly king to whom they would pay homage. At the poverty of the crib, they fell down and worshiped. Theirs is a picture of adoration of faith and conversion. The kings are now wise men. They are not going home the same way they came. They are now willing to walk the straight and narrow path that leads to life. Let's walk with them.

Our warmest wishes to you and your loved ones for a very Holy, Happy and Healthy New Year. May many blessings be yours.

Gratefully in Jesus & Mary,

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