



Talktime with Sr. J

Solemnity of the Mother of God Luke 2:16-21

January 1, 2017

Dear Friend,

What is a mother? To begin we can say that a mother is selfless, a protector, and loving. A mother sacrifices her own human wants and needs for those of her children. A mother loves her child unconditionally and works hard to make assure that their child is prepared for life.

The Mother of God is all the above and more. When Mary gave her yes to the angel she had no idea what it was going to mean beyond human expectations. No matter how much she pondered there was no explanation for this divine mystery. She needed to exercise her faith and watch it unfold.

When she gave birth the Savior entered the world, taking on our human flesh to free us from sin. We will not uncover the mystery no matter how much we ponder. But what we are called to do is model ourselves on the example of Mary. Her Fiat needs to be ours as well. Her Fiat, "I am the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word" is important. Her "yes" is an invitation for us to trust in God and to desire to experience God in deeper ways. Her "yes" is an act of mercy because with her response she gives birth to Christ and helps to secure a means for our salvation and shows us how to draw closer to God.

Simply put, this is why we celebrate the great feast of Mary Mother of God. Let us pray to her and ask her to "pray for us sinners" now and always.

Peace,
Sr. J.



Talktime with Sr. J

Epiphany of the Lord *Matthew 2:1-12*

January 8, 2017

Dear Friend,

For many of us it may seem that the Wise men brought very strange gifts to the newborn King. They were actually fit for this King and an invitation for us to strive for holiness.

The Year of Mercy has concluded. Many of us were made more aware of the need to give and receive mercy, and to reach out to those in need. A New Year has begun and as we look around there is still violence and war that seems to be out of control. On today's feast let us reflect on the gifts of the wise men and decide how they are to fill in the holes in our life.

The first gift we bring Him is **gold** by detaching ourselves from money and material things that is not letting our hearts become too attached to them yet using them to do good. Our treasure is Christ and all our love and desire must be centered on him, "for where our treasure is, there will our hearts be also."

Next we offer **frankincense**, our desire to live a noble life that sows understanding and friendship. Let us open our hearts to accompany others so that no one is alone or abandoned. Live affectionate charity.

Finally, let us offer **myrrh**, the spirit of sacrifice in a spirit of charity. With this third gift along with the others we learn to love with actions and prove our love by willingly embracing sorrow

The wise men with their gifts remind us Christians that we are to encounter Jesus, the Jesus in one another. We are incomplete if we live closed in upon ourselves and lack love. We are invited to *receive* the love of God, and to freely offer this love to all whom we encounter in our daily lives.

Peace,
Sr. J.



Talktime with Sr. J

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
John 1:29-34

January 15, 2017

Dear Friend,

When John the Baptist proclaims: “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,” he is announcing that Jesus is more than just a man. How could the Baptist give such a powerful witness to Jesus? He was a man who knew how to suffer and pray. Inspired by the Spirit he *believed* that when the time came he would know. At the given time he did not fear to speak aloud and acknowledge Jesus.

The Baptist was a prophet and prophets are given the word to speak no matter what the cost. When we were baptized we were anointed with oil and embraced the role of common priest, prophet and king. We were anointed as *priest* to help foster holiness through actions and words of kindness. We are *prophet* in the measure that we display truth, the truth of God. We are *king* when we take up the role of coordinating gifts and talents for the common good of others.

We are called to do this within our own family, among our friends and in our social groups. When it is done with charity and including everyone in some capacity we give witness to Jesus. We are baptized disciples chosen to live these characteristics to the best of our ability. Faithful to our call let us take to heart the words of St. Frances de Sales who once said: “Be who you are, and be that well.”

Peace,
Sr. J.



Talktime with Sr. J

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mt 4:12-23

January 22, 2017

Dear Friend,

When Jesus calls people he wants them as they are, and where they are. All of us are called as we are engaged our everyday work: earning a living or as students. His first disciples were fishermen probably of the lower socio-economic ladder. Their low social status or lack of political power does not matter to him, and it does not matter with us.

As with the first disciples, Jesus promises to expand our skills: it is no longer fishing, but catching people. When we receive the call there are no hints about what follows, no details about the mission, no promises of success. Remarkably, men and women of faith follow after this “stranger” who interrupts their daily routine. All that is asked of them is simply that they follow. The meaning of their choice will unfold only over time.

God's call invites and empowers choices. Those first disciples might have preferred to keep their jobs, to remain with their families, to stay with the life that they knew. When they see Jesus and hear his words to them, they make a different choice. They take a risk, step out in faith, leave behind that which is comfortable and secure. They choose to follow Jesus.

What is our response to the call? God will give us what we need and our response will mature over time. We are not left alone. With our prayer life we follow. In attentive prayer and with watching and waiting we discern the path of Christ.

Peace,

Sr. J.



Talktime with Sr. J

***Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Matthew 5:1-12a***

January 29, 2017

Dear Friend,

Blessedness! Jesus is inviting us to enter into the joy of the Lord. However, this invitation expects us to accept the challenge to make right choices as we live our lives on earth. The choices that Jesus offers us go against what the world considers happiness.

Our world encourages us to gather material goods, avoid suffering, and to look after ourselves. Yet Jesus tells us that if we really want to be happy then choose poverty of spirit seeking God as your one true treasure. Seek your nourishment not only in food but more so in the power and strength of God's Word. Strive to be humble of heart so that you can obtain the source of abundant life and happiness.

When we reflect on the beatitudes we get a glimpse of the joy that awaits us if we do not get lost in the world. Jesus is telling us that what awaits us is worth more than any trouble or suffering we may experience while on earth.

These beatitudes challenge us to be more like Jesus. They describe the God-man we chose to follow at our Baptism. As Christians we are commissioned to live this charter of love and mercy with all our brothers and sisters.

Let us sincerely pray for one another as we journey through this new year of grace.

Peace,

Sr. J.

