

NEW YEARS HOMILY

1. Feast of Mary Mother of God honors Mary but really about us
 - a. God became human and was born of Mary for one purpose
 - b. That was to adopt us as his children
2. History of Israel and OT is about God trying to reveal His love for us and His desire that we respond by loving Him and our neighbor
 - a. God has a special love for the person who is most oppressed and suffering
 - b. First he assures them of his concern
 - i. Then he raises up a leader such as Moses who led Israel back to safety in their homeland
 - ii. When as a people they forgot their history and began to oppress the widow and the orphan, he sent prophets to warn them
 - iii. When they persisted, he would allow neighbors to conquer them and lead them into exile
 - iv. Prophets also promised them after these times of purification, he would return them to their homes
3. Our belief is that Jesus comes as fullness of revelation of God
 - a. Not just a prophet but God Himself
 - i. Comes to show us how much God wants us to be his children
 - b. Necessary for us that Jesus also is human and lives the way God wants us to
 - i. Indeed he lowers himself to become the least of us
 - ii. He lives a poor life and is crucified as if a common criminal
 - c. In all this He keeps reminding us that God is transforming us
 - i. We are no longer slaves but children of God along with Jesus
 - ii. Through the Spirit of God we can recognize and call God, Father
 - (1) God wishes us to join him in our true homeland which is in heaven
4. This faith is summarized in phrase Mary, Mother of God
 - a. Mary is mother of one person Jesus who is not just human but also God
 - b. Jesus brings together God and humanity
 - c. Through the Jesus becoming human God gives us the chance to become God
 - d. He adopts us and fills us with his very own life in the Holy Spirit, offering us a home with the Father
 - e. All he asks is that we accept this love and make it our own by loving Him with all we are and our neighbor as ourselves