



Jan 1st The Feast of Mary the Mother of God

A woman in the crowd called out “Blessed is the womb that carried you and the breasts at which you nursed.” Jesus corrected her by saying, “Rather, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it” (Luke 11:27). It is a strange response almost dismissive of his mother, yet a deeper reading reveals the depth of their relationship. Jesus is not denying that Mary his biological mother was Blessed but rather he is highlighting that her deepest union with her Son came from her unquestioning response to His and His Father’s will. “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38). From the Annunciation to the foot of the cross she pondered Gods’ calling and Gods’ love.

Mary’s motherhood was one that encompassed her whole being. It was one that united her to her Son in ways we will never fully comprehend. It was radical and complete. Pope Francis said, “Mary reminds us that, if we truly want the New Year to be good, if we want to reconstruct hope, we need to abandon the language, actions and choices inspired by egoism, and learn the language of love, which is to take care.” He continued: “This is the commitment: to take care of our lives, of our time, of our souls; to take care of creation and the environment we live in; and even more, to take care of our neighbor, of those whom the Lord has placed alongside us, as well as our brothers and sisters who are in need and who call for our attention and our compassion.”

Similar to Mary as Vincentians and disciples we are called to answer the will of God. Just as Mary pondered and prayed on the events of her life to see God’s presence at work in world so too are we called to act in Love and seek out all in need.