



NEWSLETTER



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JANUARY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 SOLEMNITY OF MARY	2	3	4	5	6
7 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	8 MEETING ROCKDALE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 DAY OF PRAYER FOR LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN	23	24	25	26	27 PRO LIFE MARCH AUSTIN
28	29	30	31			

NEWS

We start the new year with our next meeting in Rockdale. As usual, we start with a meal at 7:00 pm, and we should be done by 8:30 pm, if we don't make three passes at the dessert table.

Please note the National day of prayer for legal protection of unborn children is on January 22. That would be a good day to say an extra Rosary to help make this come about.

The Pro Life Mass has been changed to 2 Masses this year. I guess the crowds have gotten too big for one Mass. There will be a Mass at 10:00 AM, at San Jose, the original site at 2435 Oak Crest Drive, and the other at 10:30 AM, at St. Louis parish, located at 7601 Burnet Road, in Austin. I e-mailed District Master Moreno, and he said there would be a fallout at both churches. I checked the map, and it looks like our best bet would be to join the fallout at San Jose. We all know how to get there, it is easy to locate, and there is a Whataburger right on the way to the march from there. I am sure they have missed us since the location was changed a few years back, and will be thanking us for stopping by again.

Don't forget our Clergy retirement dance at Holy Rosary on January 13. It starts with our NFF Hamburgers (No Fast Food) served at 6 PM, and the dance starting at 7 and ending at 11.

By the time you receive this newsletter, your dues will be on the edge of being past due. You can bring them to the meeting (no foreign currency allowed), or mail the check to Marty Elman, whose address is at the upper right corner of this newsletter.

Hubert will have our raffle tickets at our next meeting, so bring a big bag to put yours in. Don't forget, with the new tax bill, we should have a pocket full of money by then. You will also have found out just how much you have saved, since the Shoot is on Tax Day (April 15). In anticipation of this, Josiah has added an extra 5 targets, so we will can accommodate 25 shooters, instead of the 20 that we have had in the past.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Here it is, another year under our belts. It reminds me of our 1st Degree initiation, when I first heard the words-**TEMPIST FUGET-MEMENTO MORI** (Time flies-Remember death) It didn't mean much at that time, as we were living the simple life 22 miles outside of Winnemucca, Nevada, with a small yard to mow, a small garden to grow, and plenty of time to sit out on the back deck and enjoy some of the most beautiful scenery in our nation. But as the old song goes-Time Changes Everything. Guess the Good Lord got tired of us sitting around the heater all winter, and made other plans for us. I sure wish sometimes that he would not have made that pendulum swing quite so far the other way. Although, had we not moved back, look at all the things we would have missed, all the people we would not have the opportunity to meet, and all the places we would not have been able to go. Kinda evens things out. Guess the Good Lord knew what he was doing after all. *Happy New Year.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As in a mosaic, today's liturgy contemplates different events and messianic situations, but attention is especially focused on Mary, Mother of God. Eight days after Jesus' birth, we commemorate the Mother, the *Theotokos*, the one who gave birth to the Child who is King of Heaven and earth for ever (cf. *Entrance Antiphon; Sedulius*). The liturgy today meditates on the Word made man and repeats that he is born of the Virgin. It reflects on the circumcision of Jesus as a rite of admission to the community and contemplates God who, by means of Mary, gave his Only-Begotten Son to lead the "new people". It recalls the name given to the Messiah and listens to it spoken with tender sweetness by his Mother. It invokes peace for the world, Christ's peace, and does so through Mary, Mediatrix and Cooperator of Christ (cf. *Lumen Gentium*, nn. 60-61).

We are beginning a new solar year which is a further period of time offered to us by divine Providence in the context of the salvation inaugurated by Christ. But did not the eternal Word enter time precisely through Mary? In the Second Reading we have just listened to, the Apostle Paul recalls this by saying that Jesus was born "of woman" (Gal 4:4).

In today's liturgy the figure of Mary, true Mother of Jesus, God-man, stands out. Thus, today's Solemnity is not celebrating an abstract idea but a mystery and an historic event: Jesus Christ, a divine Person, is born of the Virgin Mary who is his Mother in the truest sense.

Mary's virginity and motherhood

Today too, Mary's virginity is highlighted, in addition to her motherhood. These are two prerogatives that are always proclaimed together, inseparably, because they complement and qualify each other. Mary is Mother, but a Virgin Mother; Mary is a virgin, but a Mother Virgin. If either of these aspects is ignored, the mystery of Mary as the Gospels present her to us, cannot be properly understood.

As Mother of Christ, Mary is also *Mother of the Church*, which my venerable Predecessor, the Servant of God Paul VI chose to proclaim on 21 November 1964 at the Second Vatican Council. Lastly, Mary is the *Spiritual Mother of all humanity*, because Jesus on the Cross shed his blood for all of us and from the Cross he entrusted us all to her maternal care.

Let us begin this new year, therefore, by looking at Mary whom we received from God's hands as a precious "talent" to be made fruitful, a providential opportunity to contribute to bringing about the Kingdom of God.

In this atmosphere of prayer and gratitude to the Lord for the gift of a new year, I am pleased to address my respectful thoughts to the distinguished Ambassadors of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Holy See who have desired to take part in today's solemn Celebration.

I cordially greet Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, my Secretary of State. I greet Cardinal Renato Raffaele Martino and the members of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and express to them my deep gratitude for the commitment with which they daily promote these values, so fundamental to social life.

For this World Day of Peace, I addressed the customary Message to the Governors and Leaders of Nations, as well as to all men and women of good will. Its theme this year is: *The human person, the heart of peace*.

I am deeply convinced that "respect for the person promotes peace and that, in building peace, the foundations are laid for an authentic integral humanism" (*Message for World Peace Day, 1 January 2007*, n. 1).

This commitment is especially incumbent on every Christian who is called "to be committed to tireless peace-making and strenuous defense of the dignity of the human person and his inalienable rights" (*Message*, n. 16). Precisely because he is created in the image and likeness of God (cf. Gn 1:27), every human individual without distinction of race, culture or religion, as a person is clothed in God's same dignity. For this reason he should be respected, nor can any reason ever justify an arbitrary use of him, as if he were an object.

In the face of the threats to peace that are unfortunately ever present, the situations of injustice and violence that persist in various areas of the earth and the continuing armed conflicts often overlooked by the majority of public opinion, as well as the danger of terrorism that clouds the serenity of peoples, it is becoming more necessary than ever *to work for peace together*. This, as I recalled in my *Message*, is "both gift and task" (n. 3): a gift to implore with prayer and a task to be carried out with courage, never tiring.

The Gospel narrative we have heard portrays the scene of the shepherds of Bethlehem, who after hearing the Angel's announcement go to the grotto to worship the Child (cf. Lk 2:16). Should we not look again at the dramatic situation marking the very Land in which Jesus was born? How can we not entreat God with insistent prayers for the day of peace to arrive as soon as possible in that region too, the day on which the current conflict that has lasted far too long will be resolved?

By: Pope Benedict XVI

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