

Born of a Woman

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It was a week ago that we celebrated the Nativity of Our Lord, Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary in a manger, receiving homage from the lowly shepherds. Mary, observing the circumstances of her Son's birth she treasured the events in her heart. The Church has dedicated as the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Mary has been recognized as such since the early history of Christianity. For example, the Church declared that Jesus is the Son of God and the Son of Mary; therefore, Mary Theotokos, the Mother of God at the Council of Ephesus in 431 AD. Through Jesus Christ, Mary became our mother too.

The book of Genesis tells us that God promised Adam that he will be saved through the fruit of a woman. Eve in Hebrew means the mother of the living. Early Church Fathers interpreted that Mary is the woman, who God promised Adam and Eve that her fruit of womb will save them. Therefore, Mary became the new Eve, the Mother of all saved by her own Son, the fruit of her womb. The Ge'ez Christian tradition praising Mary, sings, "You are the hope of Adam, when was evicted from the Eden."

The Church dedicating January 1st as Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is to signify a new era of salvation. This era of salvation started with Mary's saying yes to Angel Gabriel to be the Mother of God. Mary's yes ushered a new perspective. God looks at the poor and the lowly with care and compassion. Mary's Magnificat at Elizabeth's house and Jesus' inaugural of public ministry in the synagogue of Nazareth deliver the same message. God looks the lowly with favor.

In proclaiming the Magnificat, Mary said, "From now on, all generations will call me blessed." Elizabeth begins with such blessing, "Blessed you are among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb." A prayer we recite in the Hail Mary. The Church continues to bless Mary, the fruit of her womb brought salvation and healing to a world wounded with sin and hate. As we start a new year, let us continue to bless Mary, Mother of God and our mother to bring about peace to a world, which continues to bleed with violence as if Jesus has not paid ransom for our sins. Mary continues to invite us to the way of Jesus saying, "Do whatever he asks you to do."

Happy New Year!