

Notes from the Liturgist

3 points in 1 weekend:

The Holy Family

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God New Year (2018)

My dear friends, I have three points to share with you this weekend which I consider important as we continue to walk as pilgrim people.

The feasts we celebrate this weekend: the Holy Family, the New Year and the Solemnity of Mary as the Mother of God, are exactly the results of Mary's "Fiat" to God. Mary said yes to God. That is why we remember her today as the Mother of God, we honor her holy family, and take her as our Christian model to follow for the new year.

This weekend, we are going to celebrate the **Feast of the Holy Family**. In the Catholic Church, the Feast of the Holy Family is a liturgical celebration in honor of Jesus, Mary and Joseph as venerable family. Today's feast presents us a great model which could bring out the inner resources and strength of each other in the family to make the family stable and whole. The feast of the Holy Family is very important liturgical celebration during the Christmas season. It makes us understand that the Incarnation is not just about the Divine Word made flesh but became part of human family. Jesus entered into every human's heart and lives including to the aspect of the family life that satisfies it all and bring a path towards holiness.

Commonality among Jesus, Mary and Joseph was their faith in God. God was the center and the number one value in each one of them. Jesus showed this clearly in the Gospel when he put his Father's house above his earthly family. Mary accepted God's plan in her life to be the mother of the Messiah whom the Jews were waiting for. Joseph obeyed God through his dreams, not bothering to consider the unfavorable consequences of his action in the Jewish customs and the laws. Indeed, the secret of unity and fruitfulness in the family is when God becomes the center of one's life in the family and in any community.

Mary, the Holy Mother of God. On the 1st day of the year, the Catholic Church celebrates the feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Mother of God. What a great feast to celebrate this very first day of the year. I believe that this special feast echoes that the Blessed Virgin Mary, who is the Mother of God, is also our Heavenly Mother. It is also echoes God's divine progressive plan of salvation through the Virgin Mary.

New Year (2018). Most of us welcome this day by gathering as family and celebrate with lots of food, attending Mass, making New Year's resolutions or all of it. And there are those who see it as just another day to face the challenges they have to face. But whatever it is my dear friends, New Year is a time for us to give thanks for all the blessings we have received in the past year and many more blessings we receive in the days to come and to give thanks most especially for the greatest gift He has given to us His only begotten Son. **– ACE TUPASI**

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!