

January 1, 2021

The Feast of Mary the Mother of Jesus

## Happy New Years Day!

Today on the 8th day of our Christmas Feast we remember Mary, The Mother Of Jesus.

The Church calls her the Theotokos or Mother of God.

This is a jarring reality to hear, as it should be!

It would seem that Christians for the first thousand years or so, understood Mary as a needed icon and archetype of the feminine nature of God at an allegorical level. But by the time of the Protestant Reformation, all we could see was "She is not God!"

This is entirely true, but we lost the ability to see and understand that, "She is us!"

This is deeply important for us as we embrace the imagination for what it might mean to say "YES" to trust. Saying "YES" to breaking past the "defined roles", whatever that might mean in your specific life/family/culture.

Mary is the archetype of how to receive what God is doing and hand it on to others. She defies all the social and cultural norms to give her full "YES".

Mary becomes the symbol of humanity in surrendering to the deepest nature of our reality, the Love of God. The medievals had a great sense of this. They used to picture Mary in their art as the woman with a giant cape. Beneath the cape were all the people of God. She summed up the meaning of their Christianity in her person, in her "yes."

On this first day of 2021, we would like to encourage you to give yourself to the auspicious yet simple prayer of, "YES."

From this posture, there is nothing to protect, nothing to possess, and nothing to prove.

YES to this moment, and the gift that it brings.

YES to this New Year, and all of the lessons it intends to teach me. When we start with YES it works to free us from our biases and preconceived ideas.

This is a magnificent first step in following the pattern of Jesus teaching "do not judge."

As you prepare to step into the new year take time to find your YES. It might be buried beneath all the things people have told you, that you are not good enough, smart enough, etc.

Start with an innate YES to your original Goodness. Say YES to the Divine Imagine implanted within you. Like a homing beacon pointing you back to your original DNA of Goodness and Love.

To Love is to say YES to the flow of Love that is already happening all around you.

Grace and Peace,  
Joel Everson

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