



Things to Ponder

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Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

Dear Friends and Visitors,

Happy New Year!

Twenty-nine days ago, I stood with a friend in the midst of busy *Times Square* in New York City and gazed at the iconic sign that marks the year. I have fond memories of watching the crystal ball fall on television with my family. Two years ago, my sister and I gazed at the scene on a muted television in my mother's hospital room. There is really nothing *magic* about turning the calendar over to another year; but there is something special about reflecting on how God has been made manifest in our lives over the years. This is what Mary did as the shepherds came to honor her new-born Son. One translation says that she *treasured* all these things.

The birth of Christ has transformed the meaning of human life. Thus, we who believe mark each year since his birth with the letters **AD**, which designate the Latin phrase: *Anno Domini* — Year of the Lord. Every year, every day, is an opportunity for grace. The title with which we honor Mary today is the oldest and most significant appellation with which we can praise her — *Mother of God*. Who can better intercede with a son than his mother?

As you finger your beads today, pick your favorite *mystery*. One of mine is the second luminous wherein Mary simply said to the servants in the midst of a crisis: *Do whatever my Son tells you!*

Blessed New Year,

Father William Foley

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