

Homily for the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

Have you ever talked with someone on the phone, who seemed to be in a hurry and wanted to get on with more important business? Or have you ever seen someone on the street or in the stores, and got that same hurried feeling – maybe before Christmas? We've probably all experienced this at one time or another, and probably didn't like it much. This being the case, though, most of us have still probably been guilty of doing the same thing.

I think everyone would agree that life has just gotten so busy. Everyone – high school students, retired men and women, parents, parish priests have all told me just how busy they've been this past year. We have so many things we want to get accomplished and yet we barely seem to have enough time to get done the things we have to do.

Have you ever rushed to get things done at work, then fly home, and pack a suitcase, only to get away on vacation? Or have you ever tried to squeeze in one more thing before you leave the house, because you think it'll leave you with a little more time later? Time seems like such a luxury these days. We value time so much, and yet there just never seems to be enough of it.

Well, in our second reading today from his Letter to the Galatians, St. Paul writes, “When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman...so that we might receive adoption as sons.” What this tells us is that God is not subject to time! The Blessed Trinity exists outside of time. Time is something He created so that creation can mark the passing of its existence. It’s been said that time is God’s way of keeping everything from happening to us all at once. Now, we might think to ourselves: “Hmm, some gift! Time just keeps me running around in circles. After a busy day, I go to bed, only to get up the next day, and do it all over again. So, what’s the point?”

Well, as we heard in Galatians today, “God sent His Son when the fullness of time had come.” In other words, in the person of Jesus Christ, God freely chose to enter into time – to enter into human history. Jesus has entered into our very “race against time”, because He wants to redeem that in our lives too! And this is truly good news. In Jesus Christ time becomes God’s gift. Time no longer need be “the enemy” – the thing to fight against because it limits all that we want to get done, or the thing to be slowed at all costs because it brings us closer to death. Rather, time becomes God’s gift because it’s something He’s designed to help us.

What do I mean? Well, here we are this evening/morning. And we find ourselves again at the beginning of a new period of time – we leave behind 2017 and we see 2018 before us. Yes, some things will probably happen, which will ultimately be beyond our control. But many things will be left up to our own choices. In other words: How are we going to spend our time? This new year is God’s gift to us. It’s an opportunity for real growth – spiritual and in all the other areas that we need it.

Yes, 2018 may still feel busier than ever to us. And yes, we’re still going to have those important things to do like paying bills, answering emails, going to work, and food shopping. But what about the most important thing: Our relationships with God and with other people? “Remember Jesus? How he raced about, hurrying from one city to another, collecting great crowds on the way to give them a few minutes of hurried heaven-data, then dashing on to the next place? No! That’s not the picture of Jesus the New Testament gives. Rather, He had time for people. He had time for life’s “interruptions”. And if the Savior of the world had time, so do we!

And so, as we begin this new year, we honor our heavenly Mother Mary under her most important title, “Mother of God”. As someone who understood the importance of time in God’s plan for salvation, we turn to her today. And we ask her to pray for us, that we may use our time to love God and others as her Son taught. God bless you and a very blessed and fruitful 365 days to you all.