

Homily – Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass at St. Anthony High School

On the feast of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, the prophet Micah presents her to us as the one who is to give birth. Without knowing it, the prophet is announcing the greatest title of Mary: Mother of God.

The prophet describes Bethlehem-Ephrathah as too small for any fruit to be expected from it. It is like a small tree in the winter, which has lost all its leaves and appears to be dead. But life is brewing within it, secretly. It has strong roots. A new spring is about to come. Then he talks about the shepherd-king who will gather all the children and make them live in peace. He himself shall be our peace.

Just as Mary was intended by God to be the Mother of the One who was to be our peace, you and I have been thought to carry within us the One who is our peace. Are we aware that, if we live in God's grace, we carry Jesus within us? Do you not feel it!? Neither do I! However, there is something much deeper than feeling and it is the certainty of faith. I believe it! I believe that I am never alone. I believe that there is still life within me and He can make me bloom. I believe that He supports me when I suffer.

I encourage you to invite Mary to help you take care of that presence of the Prince of Peace in our hearts. He commands us from the depths of the heart and begets in each of us the peace that pacifies our environment.

The evangelist explains to us how Mary begot Jesus and why we say of him that he is the son of David. Jesus was begotten in Mary

by the work of the Holy Spirit. He comes from God. Joseph, a descendant of David, who adopted Jesus as his son, gives him the lawful claim to David's throne according to the flesh. Jesus is the rightful heir within divine and human dynasties. He has long and strong roots, to which everyone is connected. We clearly see how God does not abandon his people. One generation after another, with the patience of a goldsmith as Pope Francis would say, God bears the ancestry of his Son made man in human history.

Addressing youth, Pope Francis recently said: "we have roots of joy. In the same way, we too can be roots of joy for others. It is not about bringing a fleeting joy, the joy of the moment; it is about bringing a joy that generates roots. Let us ask, how can we become roots of joy?"

In the same way God, with his loving patience, bears his Son in the heart of every human being. Mary and Joseph are perfect models of how to let God work in our lives. They believed God! Do you believe that Jesus is God? What is your relationship with Mary like? Renewal brings joy!

May our Lady of Guadalupe nourish us from the root, for the fruits of peace and joy to grow from within us.