

The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Memorial
August 22, 2012 9am Faculty
Isaiah 9.1-6
Luke 1.26-38

My understanding is that the school will be focusing on Mary, the Blessed Mother this year. So it is a nice coincidence that we celebrate a Church feast day in honor of Mary today for your faculty Mass.

Given that, I have thought about Mary and who she, as a person of faith, is to us, as persons of faith.

I have gone a bit beyond the readings and have three thoughts. They will be brief.

My first reflection is on Mary as Mother.

We refer to her as the Blessed Mother.

Mary emerges in the Scripture, as we heard today, as the one who is to be mother of the Savior, the one who will bring God's Son into the world.

In doing that, Mary exalts the role of motherhood.

She is a kind of patron of mothers.

She shows the great vocation and role simply of being a mother – of bringing a child into the world and then of nurturing the child toward full maturity.

The Blessed Mother in that way also lifts up for us the life of all children.

At least indirectly, Mary affirms our absolute respect for the life of the unborn child.

And she calls not just mothers, but fathers and teachers and all of us to understand how noble is the calling to foster the growth of children.

So that is something of Mary as Mother.

And then there is Mary as Woman.

I think we can call Mary a patron of Christian feminists.

She reminds our society and Church of the dignity of all women.

After all, this is how God chose to enter our world – through a woman.

Mary shows herself as strong in character.

Just this past Saturday afternoon at a wedding that I did, we had the gospel passage of the wedding feast of Cana.

Jesus kind of puts off at first his mother's request to help the couple who have run out of wine.

Mary seems to ignore Jesus' response and tells the waiters to do whatever he tells them to do.

And we know the rest of the story.

Mary was in a sense, in control of the situation and through her strength, determination and leadership, something good happen.

That is something of Mary the woman.

And then there is Mary the Christian.

She was the first disciple of Jesus.

She remained with Jesus through the crucifixion and continued to be with the apostles through Pentecost.

She never wavered in her faith.

And significantly, Mary made Jesus the center of everything. Her life was centered on him and that is why we so appropriately speak of her as Mary the Christian.

Well, they are a few reflections for today.

I hope they say something to you as adults and that with them, you might better help our children this year to appreciate this unique person in our faith tradition.