

Christmas: January 1st Mary, Mother of God

Gospel text (Lk 2,16-21): The shepherds came hurriedly and found Mary and Joseph with the baby lying in the manger. On seeing this they related what they had been told about the child, and all were astonished on hearing the shepherds. As for Mary, she treasured all these messages and continually pondered over them (...).

Holy Mary, Mother of God ("Theotókos")

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)

(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, when Mary has given birth to Jesus, the time of the promises is fulfilled. The Messiah's arrival announced by the prophets is qualitatively the most important event in all History, to which it brings the final and most complete meaning. He did not enter into time coming from the heights but "from within". This is "God's style"!

Mary's maternity is truly and full human. The sentence "God sent forth his Son, born of a woman" (Gal 4:4) resumes the fundamental truth about Jesus as a divine Person, who fully assumed our human nature. He is the Son of God and at the same time the son of a woman: Mary. He comes from her. He is of God and of Mary. That's why Jesus' mother can and should be called Mother of God "Theotókos" (Council of Ephesus, A.D. 431).

—Each time we pray the "Hail Mary" we turn to the Virgin with this title, begging her to pray "for us sinners".