

MARY MOST HOLY, DAWN OF NEW TIMES

Mother Adela, SCTJM

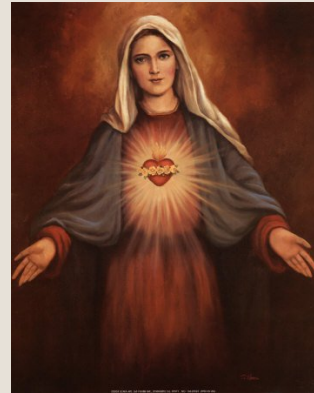
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January 2000

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

The Year 2000 has begun with great joy all over the world amidst songs, candles, and beautiful fireworks. Many of us waited for the New Year in prayer, choosing to dedicate it to Christ, King and Lord of human history. In front of a large crowd of young people who were waiting for the New Year in the Plaza of St. Peter's Basilica, the Holy Father gave the world a most necessary message, reminding it of the true meaning of this moment. "In the eyes of faith, time assumes a religious meaning and even more so during the Jubilee Year which has just begun. Christ is the Lord of time. Every moment of human time is under the sign of the Redemption of the Lord, who, once and for all... You, Christ, the goal of human history, are the focal point of the expectations of every human being. The years and the centuries belong to you. Time is yours, O Christ, who are the same yesterday, today and for ever" (Homily during First Vespers, no. 3-4).



With these words, the Holy Father reminded us of the Christian meaning of time. "When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman" (Gal. 4:4). Time came to its fullness because God took on human flesh and entered into it. God acts in time and manifests His presence and providence within human time. That is why He chooses certain moments or specific "hours" to manifest His grace in a particular way - such as a Holy Year.

I think it is necessary for us to take note of a providential and transcendental detail about the first day of January, 2000. The beginning of this new century and of this new year of transition into the New Millennium took place on a day that is profoundly Marian. In addition to being the Solemnity of the Mary, Mother of God, this 1st day of January was also a First Saturday of the month, a day dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. How providential! Is not this Holy Year a commemoration of the birth of our Savior? Is not the Blessed Virgin the first one to receive in Her Heart the mystery of the Incarnation? The Lord has desired that we begin this new era of history by directing our gaze to her who opened wide the door of her Heart to the Redeemer, and thus, became the most excellent bearer of Christ to humanity.

It was precisely during the Marian solemnity on January 1st, 2000 that the Holy Father opened the Holy Door of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major - the first basilica dedicated to the Mother of Christ in the West. In his homily, the Supreme Pontiff told us, "This 'fullness' was achieved when God 'sent forth his Son, born of woman' (Gal 4: 4)...In giving birth to the eternal Son of the Father, Mary contributed to achieving the fullness of time; she contributed uniquely to ensuring that human time would reach the measure of its fullness in the Incarnation of the Word" (no. 3). If she contributed in a singular way in the fullness of time, we can deduce that the Lord has trusted Mary, as Mother of Christ and the Church, to exercise her maternal care in the events of human history.

The Holy Father concluded by saying, "To you we entrust the days of the new year, the future of the Church, the future of humanity, the future of the entire universe" (no. 5). He also entrusted us to the Blessed Virgin in the opening of the Holy Door of the Basilica of St. Peter which formally gave commencement to the Jubilee: "Mary, dawn of the new times, be at our side as we trustingly take our first steps into the Jubilee Year!" (Homily, December 24, 1999, no. 4). Furthermore, on the Feast of the Epiphany he stated, "At the beginning of this new year, as we living intensely the great Jubilee, we entrust to Mary, "Morning Star", the Church's mission of evangelization and the path of Christians towards full union with our Redeemer." (Angelus, January 6, 2000, no. 3,

With these simple acts of entrustment and offering to the Blessed Virgin, His Holiness John Paul II seemed to reveal a sure path by which to live the Holy Year. We must be united with Mary Most Holy, within Her Immaculate Heart, allowing ourselves to be guided by Her so that She can lead us to into a deeper contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation, a mystery in which She is a most unique and singular

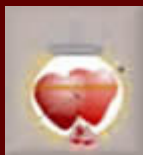
participant. May we all entrust our lives, our history, our years and circumstances to the maternal care of Mary, Most Holy. May we, with Her and beside Her, travel the path of this great Jubilee Year of grace and mercy.

May this millennium belong to the Two Hearts!

In the Love of the Pierced Hearts,

Mother Adela Galindo, Foundress SCTJM

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