

The beautiful thing about our God is that in the midst of our complicated and broken world, where most of the time the power of darkness and sin seems too great, He sends us answers that are simple and yet full of profound power.

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, as we do at the start of every New Year. The Church, in Her wisdom, gives us this feast to remind us of God's most powerful answers to the problems that haunt us. In the midst of our broken world, God sends Himself and His Mother to remind us, "Do not be afraid."

There is nothing like the bond between a mother and child. Something wonderful happens when a mother wraps up her child and says, "*Shhhh*, don't be afraid, I'm here." As Christians, one of the major temptations we constantly face is worry. We worry about retirement, our health, our parents, our children, our in-laws, our co-workers, and the list goes on.

In the midst of all of our worry, let us remember God's answer: God with us, and His Mother, with us. They have been with the Church through every economic and social rise and collapse, through genocides, dictators, famines, wars, plagues and natural disasters. And through it all, still here, are God and His Mother.

As we face this New Year with all those things that tempt us to worry, let us cling to God's simple, yet profound answer--Himself and His Mother--and *not* be afraid.