

Mary Mother of God, Jan 1, Year B

This week we visited Elizabeth Cantor in Cargill Creek & her new baby girl  
1 month old – I picked her up and held her – “She needs to be changed”  
I sat with her – tiny fingernails, toes, eyelashes (But she needed to be changed)

Think about it – This is also what Mary was dealing with – diapers and baby stuff  
When Jesus was born it was a day like any other day for most people – it was a workday.  
A day like any other

Jesus was born during a tax census  
People were busy -                      Getting to their hometown  
   Digging up birth records  
   Filling out their tax forms, paperwork, dealing with town officials  
   Long lines, traffic  
   Crowds so thick, not a hotel room to be found

When angels announce the birth of Jesus  
Not to priests or prophets  
To shepherds, at work, – working the night shift out in the fields

Jesus entered the world of flesh and blood  
He didn’t come in the sacristy, or the temple, or some holy place  
He came in the rough and tumble, world of people with jobs to do,  
   With fields to tend, stress, and all the anxiety of life.  
   With the government breathing down their necks at tax time.

Mary was Jesus’ Mother – with all the day to day stuff that came with it  
The same stuff we deal with in our families  
   Wash His diapers                      Clean up after Him  
   Lug the water                              Milk the goat  
   Laundry                                      Cook Joseph’s supper  
   Wash his clothes                          Do the dishes

Mary was Mother of God – Holy (yes), *but holiness immersed in day to day life of Motherhood*

**If the Good News of Christmas is to be relevant it must go beyond the religion section of newspaper**

Birth of Jesus takes place in the middle of life & touches every part of life  
In Church, In Parliament, In our jobs, In our families, at our Dinner tables  
– Jesus touches all of it

AND BECAUSE HE TOUCHES ALL OF IT, HE TOUCHES OUR SIN, OUR FAILURES.

In Galatians Paul Says:  
“In the fullness of time, God sent His Son, born of woman, to ransom those under the law” –  
He is talking about US

Through Mary, Jesus came into the world and is part of our day to day lives today –  
Through Mary, Jesus is born at Christmas – but He is born for Easter – **& We are redeemed**

My people – the blessing of the 1<sup>st</sup> reading from Book of Numbers is ours as we enter 2010:

May the Lord bless you and keep you  
The Lord let His face shine upon you – and be gracious to you  
The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!