

January 22, 2017

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**I urge you, sisters and brothers, let there be no divisions among you. I hear that each of you is saying, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Peter.” Is Christ divided?**

*I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.*

### **Praying for our Country’s New Administration**

We are all too aware of the divisions today in our world, in our country and in ourselves. Enough words have been spoken about it already, perhaps. We don’t need more. What I would like to do instead during this homily time is not to do more talk about these divisions, but to pray about them, to pray over them, to pray into them. I am inviting you to join me in doing just that – to pray the rosary together for our country’s new administration.

### **The Rosary of Our Lady** The Joyful Mysteries

#### **“The Annunciation”: for harmony among faiths**

*King Abdullah of Jordan in 2007 urged that: “It is essential to resist forces of division that spread misunderstanding and mistrust, especially among peoples of different religions. Humanity everywhere is bound together, not only by mutual interests, but by shared commandments to love God and neighbor; to love the good and neighbor.”*

#### **“The Visitation”: for the safety of immigrants**

*“The Church’s motherly attention is expressed towards those who are obliged to flee their own country and exist between rootlessness and integration. This tension destroys people. Christian compassion hears their cries of distress. (Pope Francis, May 24, 2013)*

#### **“The Birth of Jesus”: for the dignity of women**

*“Every girl’s life matters; every daughter deserves the same chance as our sons; every woman should be able to go about her day, to walk the streets, or ride the bus and be safe and be treated with respect and dignity. She deserves that.” (Former President Obama on women’s rights in a visit to India, January 27, 2015.)*

#### **“The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple”: for our country’s new leaders**

*“When we are influenced by the Spirit, we find ourselves speaking a new language of peace in a world that sometimes seems to have gone mad with prejudice, hatred, xenophobia and fear.” (St. Mark’s Episcopal Church. Albuquerque, NM. Pentecost, 2016)*

**“The Finding of Jesus in the Temple”:** for the well-being of all humanity

*Those who see what God is doing in their lives see things others miss, and therefore suffer through things other people refuse to do, all for the well-being of humankind.*

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*I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.*

**Let us finish now by praying: “Hail Holy Queen”**