



By [Glenn CJ Byer, MA SLD](#)

The first reading and psalm today takes account not only of the solemnity, but of the day; it is a blessing upon the year and on all of us. Why should we, on this first day of the civil year, contemplate the Blessed Virgin Mary in her role as the Mother of God, the Theotokos? If we understand the Christmas story, the answer is clear. At the start of this year we see Mary in her role as witness, "keeping" all the things that were happening around her and "reflecting" upon her life as evidence of all that God had done. For all our interest in New Year's resolutions and the like, what we really need to do is to recognize the work of God in our lives, to keep these things in our hearts and to live them out to the full. Today is also the world day of prayer for peace, a cause that the Virgin, who saw her son die a violent death, is surely glad to have share her day.

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