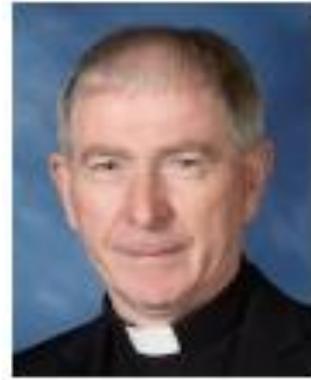


Father Martin's Pen

December 09, 2018



Spiritual Vessel.

In the litany of the Our Lady one of the title's given to her was "Spiritual Vessel." Mary was a spiritual Tabernacle for the child Jesus.

During the month of December you could say that we have three feasts of Mary, December 8th, the Immaculate Conception, December 12th. Our Lady of Guadalupe and December 25th. The feast of a mother giving birth to the Savior of the world.

Four figures are associated with the time of Advent, John the Baptist, St. Joseph, Mary and Jesus. As a pregnant mother waiting for the birth of her child; Mary is the best representative of the Advent period. Just as pregnancy is tied to a birth, so also Advent is tied to Christmas.

Back in 2006 our Pope of the time made an interesting observation.

"...the work of evangelization is never a simple adaptation to cultures, but is always a purification, a courageous departure that turns into a process of maturation and healing."

I think that recently the church seems to be just catching up to culture or civil society. In the whole area of electronic media, the church is trailing the secular world.

Using the Pope's ideas, it is not sufficient to make use of wireless communications, the church must be an agency of purification, maturation and healing to media users.

Advent is such a period. Our lady is the principal model of adjusting to the world of her time as she gave birth to the Redeemer. She was and is the Spiritual Vessel.

Both parishes of Visitation and Holy Rosary are dedicated to Our Lady and indeed carry at least some aspects of her personality.

As the yeast in the bread, she as our Patroness acts as an evangelizing agent towards the wider society. Mary always seeks to draw future disciples to her son.

Just as Mary is a Spiritual Vessel, our parish Churches too must become Arks or Tabernacles of Jesus inviting strangers into communion with existing membership.

Our Patroness is always waiting at the door to welcome pilgrims and new arrivals to the Kingdom.

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