

- Class of 22 can I get a two clap?
  - Mary Pennefather...
- Happy Feast of Mary Mother of the Church!...
  - It's fitting that when we celebrate a new beginning, a new birth, we celebrate Our Mother
  - That's why after the octave of Christmas we celebrate Mary the Mother of God
  - That's why right after Pentecost, the birthday of the Church, we celebrate Mary Mother of the Church
- Because it's in union with her and imitation of Mary that we receive the Holy Spirit and grow to full stature as the Body of Christ...
- It's clear that this class has some Spirit...just look at the scoreboard – Spirit week champs two years in a row...
- That caught my attention - I spoke with several of you recently and I asked you to describe the character of your class
  - Or as Mary O'Malley would say it, “Do you, like, want to know our vibe?”
  - So, as I investigated your VIBE...
- I got one consistent response: “we are deeply different, but mysteriously united!”
  - And this one response came through some interesting images!
- Some of you struggled to describe 60 people as ONE...

- But not Greg...without hesitation, “Our class is like a refrigerator”
  - Everything’s in there
    - You’ve got your 12 pack of coke
    - You’ve got your bacon
    - You’ve got your lone avocado
    - But together, we all chill!
- Then Sophia dove deeper with the food analogy
  - “We’re like salsa”
    - “No, we're like peach mango salsa”
    - At first you think, there’s no way that’s going to work...but then it comes together perfectly!
    - Glorious complementarity!
- This is the class of the SPIRIT
- Who other than the HOLY Spirit can bring true unity out of radical difference?
- After ministering to you over the past couple years, I see the Holy Spirit working with this class in a special way...because you are united around the right things: Jesus, Mary...the true, the good, the beautiful
- Like the apostles at Pentecost...you’ve been chilling together at Seton...now it’s time to go out on fire!
- But the question today is – how do we find the fire? How do we learn to receive the fire? How do we foster the fire?

- We find the answer in Our Blessed Mother, model disciple
- So, what's the big lesson from her life...that you take with you as you leave this school?
- Well, one of the biggest things we constantly struggle with is trust
  - That God is a good father
  - That he's taking care of you
- All of us has something on our mind that preoccupies us...
  - Am I going to keep my friends?
  - Am I going to make new ones?
  - Will I be a success or failure?
  - Will I be enough?
  - Will I overcome these sins/struggles or will it always be like this? Why the heck am I taking on all this debt?
- It's easy to get fearful and anxious in the face of these things...It pulls us out of the present moment and the presence of God...
- And we can doubt...Is God going to come through or not? Does he care?...Is he faithful?
- No one can teach us God's faithfulness like Mary...Even though she had no sin, Mary had to learn that God is trustworthy...and she learned it the only way you can learn it...by trusting him...

- If anyone was entitled to an easy life it was Mary...she has no sin, she's visited by an angel, she's the Mother of the Redeemer...
- But from the very moment she says "yes"...everything seems to go wrong...
  - She's married to Joseph, but doesn't live with him yet...and it quickly becomes clear that she's pregnant...
  - Nazareth is a town of 200 people...and in a small town people talk...You think they didn't talk about her? Imagine the gossip and the slander that Our Lady suffered...
- Then soon after she conceives, the Mother of God, the future Queen of Heaven and Earth, has to pack up and move...she travels to Bethlehem for a census...called by a pagan emperor...
- And instead of receiving a royal welcome...there's not even a place for her to give birth...
- Then she gives birth to the King of the Universe...You'd think people would be lined up to see her...but who's there?
  - A cow. A donkey. Some shepherds.
  - Where is everybody?
- Then she's visited by the Magi...who tell her, "By the way...I know you're just getting settled, but the king is trying to kill your child..."

- So, she has to escape with a newborn...she becomes a refugee in a foreign country where she doesn't know anyone...
- Finally, when the king dies...Jesus is safe...but then he lives at home in obscurity for 30 years...doing ordinary work...and even the most patient parent would ask, "Are you going to do something?"
  - And Mary has to be asking... "Is this God's plan to save the world?"
- Finally, he leaves home gathers the apostles...and things are great...signs and wonder...miracles with big crowds
  - But gradually (as he does his father's will) envy and opposition grow...people walk away when he teaches them about the Eucharist...they plot against him...until one of her son's best friends, a man she knows, betrays him
- Then suddenly he's condemned to death after an unjust trial
  - And she watches all this: she watches him stripped, she watches him beaten, she watches him scourged almost to death, crowned with thorns, and nailed to a Cross...
- And as she stands beneath the cross with his blood pouring out on her...
  - She remembers the words of the angel...which seem like a mockery...
  - "he will be great...the son of the Most High and of his kingdom there will be no end"

- Finally, he's taken down dead...placed in her arms and...and she buries her own child...
- And the whole time...Mary has to trust...and the whole time she does trust...
- Then suddenly it's Easter Sunday...although the scriptures are silent on this topic...Many mystics say that the first person Jesus appeared to after rising from the dead was his Mother...
- FINALLY, she sees how everything fits perfectly...
- And today it comes back to you and me...we're still walking this road as disciples asking God to show he is faithful...constantly having to trust him...that "God works all things for the good of those who love him"
- At a different school's graduation we would be talking about many different role models...
- Today, we celebrate the single greatest human person who has ever lived...Greater than any politician, actor, athlete, soldier...anyone in history
- To remind you that you are her children...some of you are going to be great professionals, in business, law, medicine, athletes, teachers
- Others are going to be generous mothers and fathers...others are going to give your whole life to God with an undivided heart as priests and religious...
- Some of you will lose your way and wander in the wilderness wondering if there's a meaning to all of this

anyway...

- That's why... Today from the Cross... Jesus says behold the model... behold your Mother... because no one can tell us that God keeps his promises like she can... no one can tell us that God is faithful like she can... because no one learned it like she did...
- So, what's the response God wants from you?... The same response she gave...
- She asked Gabriel "How in the world is this going to happen? How am I going to live this?"
- And Gabriel doesn't really give her an understandable answer... "the power of the Most High will overshadow you..."
  - What does that mean? What does that even look like? But instead of protesting or arguing...
- She simply says the greatest words any human person can say... "Let it be done to me according to your word"
  - Lord, I'm yours... I trust you... Do whatever you want with me
  - THAT'S the response he wants from you... as you leave here
- Wherever you are in your life... you might be asking yourself, "What is going on? How will I get through this?"
- Mary is there with you in those moments... talk to her... ask her help... no matter how broken and divided you are... she will lead you to perfect union with her SON...

- Mary on your feast day...give them your trust...your unshakable confidence...that God is ALWAYS faithful...