

“The world turned upside down” is an old English ballad that dates back to 1640. A variation of this song appears in the Broadway show “Hamilton.”

Have you ever had your life turned “upside down?” Your daughter and her family have moved to California. You will seldom if ever see your grandchildren. You walk into a doctor’s office and discover the lump on your throat is cancer. The Church which you trusted so completely has its weaknesses exposed. Where is God in all of this?

Recently a friend of mine was admitted to a nursing home. She is a Sister of Mercy who has been a wonderful Spiritual Guide and Counselor for more than 50 years, but arthritis has damaged her spine to such a degree that her walking has been severely impeded. She is in constant danger of falling and her life is turned upside down.

In today’s Gospel Mary has her life turned upside down. Her vocation is shattered in an instant. This warns us that the shattering of the vision of our own life the disappointments, the heart breaks, rejection, loneliness, confusion – these occurrences are part of our preparation for a greater vocation. God never takes anything away without giving us something better. As Mary says “Let it be done to me according to your word.”

Last week I spoke to you about Fr. Peter Young. He was a very good looking young man engaged to be married. He was completing a business degree at Siena and was an excellent athlete. He was on a tour with the Naval Reserve. While he and his buddies were on shore leave in Puerto Rico he witnessed a group of sailors force a young woman into anally where they raped her. Out of that experience came an awareness of his vocation to the priesthood. His life was turned upside down.

Our lives are often turned upside down. We wonder; where is God? What is God asking of me? E.g. the virus enters your life; a loved one dies, a child turns against you, a marriage is called off, the job you held for several years disappears, you are falsely accused of a crime.

So now, as we approach the Feast of Christmas we can unite all the times we have had our dreams, our hopes, our expectations turned upside down and shattered with Mary’s shattered dreams and realize that God who is mighty has done great things for you. God never takes anything away without giving us something better. He sends us the new born Jesus. He give us His flesh and blood in the Eucharist. Lit it be done to me according to Yourword.

Prepare for the coming of our King.