

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Weekday Mass – Friday, January 1, 2021
Cycle B

There's a blessing that our Buddhist brothers and sisters use to begin and end every meditation. They say, "May all beings be blessed by loving – kindness and compassion".

I like it a lot because it reminds me that we bless one another, not only by our words as we say "The Lord bless and keep you, not only by the signs and symbols we use like holy water, candles and incense, but most especially by our actions. We bless others most especially by the kindness and compassion we extend to them.

That is how Jesus blessed all those whom He cured, defended, forgave and loved. And this is what Mary, who we remember especially on this first day of the year, did by birthing the world a Savior. She gave us loving – kindness and compassion incarnate.

Two characteristics of kindness and compassion might be worth reflecting on today. First, it is infectious. Mary, as the Mother of God, did not remain simply a channel of grace. She had become graced, and full of grace, herself. With the help of today's Gospel reading, imagine Mary, after an agonizing ordeal of childbirth in the most difficult of places extending kindness to the poor strangers who had traveled near and far in search of her newborn Son. She lovingly allowed them to behold Him. The kindness and compassion she bore in her womb would flow over to all that she did henceforth.

Secondly, kindness and compassion do not simply pertain to acts. They pertain to people. The more kindness and compassion we demonstrate, the more these become us and the more they infuse our persons.

As we begin this New Year may we all seek to deepen our relationship with the Lord and be blessed with Christ's loving – kindness and compassion throughout this New Year. -- Amen