

## PASTOR'S COLUMN

### *“Prayer for Peace – To Mary, The Light of Hope”*

This weekend, on January 1<sup>st</sup>, we celebrate the Feast of Mary, Mother of God, and on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. These celebrations take place as we celebrate a new calendar year – 2005.

To begin this year prayerfully, I share with you a prayer written by Pope John Paul II. It is entitled, *“Prayer for Peace – To Mary, The Light of Hope.”* I encourage you as a family to pray this prayer sometime this week, when you gather together for a family meal:

Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
help us to conquer the menace of evil,  
which so easily takes root in the hearts of people today,  
and whose immeasurable effects  
already weigh down upon our modern world  
and seem to block the paths toward the future.  
From famine and war, deliver us.  
From nuclear war, from incalculable self-destruction, from  
every kind of war, deliver us.  
From sins against human life from its very beginning,  
deliver us.  
From hatred and from the demeaning of the dignity of the  
children of God, deliver us.  
From every kind of injustice in the life of society, both  
national and international, deliver us.  
From readiness to trample on the commandments of God,  
deliver us.  
From attempts to stifle in human hearts the very truth of  
God, deliver us.  
From the loss of awareness of good and evil, deliver us.  
From the sins against the Holy Spirit, deliver us.  
Accept, O Mother of Christ,  
this cry laden with the sufferings of all individual human  
beings,  
laden with the sufferings of whole societies.  
Help us with the power of the Holy Spirit to conquer all sin:  
individual sin and the “sin of the world,”  
sin in all its manifestations.  
Let there be revealed once more in the history of the world  
the infinite saving power of the redemption: the power of  
merciful love.  
May it put a stop to evil.  
May it transform consciences.  
May your Immaculate Heart reveal for all the light of hope.  
Amen!

*F. Mike*