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January 11, 2012

Each year, we Roman Catholics enjoy the blessing of beginning our calendar year, January 1<sup>st</sup> with a Mass for World Prayer for Peace. And it comes on the same day that we Honor Mary as Mother of God.

In the heart of Mary, our Mother also, we find her treasuring all of the experiences, joyful and painful as they were. In her intimacy with her Son, Jesus, she heard Him say these words so often “Peace be with you”! And “my peace I leave you.”

This was the cry of Jesus for a world touched and embraced by that very night of Jesus’ birth that not only brought light to darkness but also hope to a world so in need of it. And today we find ourselves also seeking a world of Peace enabling us to live with the gift of Light and Hope.

As our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI wrote this month for his 2012 message for World Day of Peace:

“All you men and women throughout the world, who take to heart the cause of peace: Peace is not a blessing already attained, but rather a goal to which each and all of us must aspire.” Thus as we together pray this Rosary for Life, let us look to Mary, our Mother, to lead us ever closer to the One who is both our Light and our Hope and treasure the times and seasons in our hearts.”

And this will bring us His Peace.

May God bless us all with His peace.

*+ Richard J. Garcia*

Most Reverend Richard J. Garcia, D.D.  
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