Living in Obedience to the Will of God. The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary September 8th, 2020. (Romans 8:28-30, Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23)

Today we celebrate the birthday of Mama Mary, a feast which originated in Jerusalem at the end of the 5th century AD. September 8th is chosen as the birthday of Mary because it is exactly nine months after the Solemnity of her Immaculate Conception on December 8th. Information about the birth of Mary is not stated in the Bible, but the earliest oral traditions and the teachings and writings of the Apostles and Church Fathers have enriched Catholic beliefs about Mary's birth. One of such writings is the Protoevangelium of James which tells how Mary's parents, Joachim and Anne were childless. When eventually God granted them the child Mary, they brought her to the temple at a very early age to dedicate her to God.

Mary is the Mother of God, the Mother of Jesus, the Mother of the Church and she is also our Mother. Mary was chosen in a special way to be the chosen one of God to play an important part in the history of salvation. She also responded to this by surrendering herself totally to the will of God. For me, all Christians must not dismiss the importance of Mother Mary because she deserves our great honour and respect all the time. We cannot just dismiss by saying without Mary, God would have just picked any other woman. God has chosen and prepared Mary from all eternity to be able to carry the sinless Jesus who is God in her womb for nine months, and to take care of Jesus till he was adult.

In our 1st reading from Romans, Paul says that, "those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, those whom he predestined he also called, those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified."(Romans 8:29-30) Like Mary, we are all born because we have a purpose which only us can fulfil it. Let us imitate Mary surrendering our will to accomplishing God's will for us on earth. **Amen.**

By Fr. Emmanuel Subaar