



SAY YES TO THE MESS

Homily by Kevin DePrinzio, OSA
for the Carmelite Monastery of Baltimore, MD
Feast of Solemnity of Mary, New Years Day 2025

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“It is so very hard not to wonder, ‘God what are you up to in all of this?’ — this is way too messy for me; help me to see and express your loving real presence...”

**“HOW WE DO THAT ...
IS ANOTHER WORD
FOR INCARNATION ...**



**BE IT DONE
TO ME
ACCORDING TO
YOUR WORD**

“Mercy is a word that means to enter into the mess, into all that is not neat, seemingly clean and orderly because ultimately that’s where God dwell; that’s how God enters into the world, in and through openness at the same time as brokenness; that’s where God is, so God wants us then to enter into that, go to those places in our hearts that we resist; we want to get a hand-sanitizer .. and just clean it all up. God says before you do that contemplate with me; ponder and reflect as did Mary...”

“If we look throughout all of salvation history there has been nothing nice, neat and orderly about it ... **the only thing we know to be true has been ... the promise of God to be with us in the mess.**”

“Be it done to me according to your word, no matter how much I may not understand it, or how much I resist it — **hasn’t that been Mary’s yes all along?**”

“We always say how beautiful is that manger scene, but **would we want to do that with a child, just put them in the manger with all the animals?**

“**This is the challenge - to take that scene and see it reflected in our own lives; all that is going on in our own lives ... yes, even in our world — God wants us somehow to see God’s presence in it.**”

