

Roughly a year and a half ago, on July 4, 2012, scientists at the Large Hadron Collider discovered a particle that initial data showed corresponded to the Higgs Boson.

While the press carried on about “God-particles” and “the origins of the Universe,” scientists were analyzing the data to see just which one of the 50-year-old theories of particle physics were confirmed, and which were denied.

The confirmation of what had, over 50 years, become a majority opinion, spoke less of the “Big Bang,” and instead affirmed the basic symmetry of sub-atomic particles.

The process of analysis - done in what is called a “Collider” or maybe more colloquially “an Atom Smasher” comes about by accelerating sub-atomic matter to remarkably high speeds and energies ... and letting these particles collide. The resulting particles and energy readings are captured and analyzed.

Some have compared this to trying to figure out how a stopwatch functions by throwing it against a wall and seeing what flies out of it.

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary under the title of Mother of God.

Perhaps this may seem intuitively obvious to most of us. Jesus is God, and Mary is His Mother.

Yet, in July of the year 431, an ecumenical - that is a “whole Church” - council was held in the city of Ephesus in what is now modern-day Turkey.

The issue at hand was exactly this title: “Mother of God.”

There were conflicting theological opinions, where some claimed Mary was the Mother of only the human part of Jesus; Is she the Mother of God? Mother of Christ? Mother of the Savior? Or Mother of Jesus? And again, while this may seem obvious to us - these simple facts of our Faith were being used to break apart who Jesus Christ is ... His relationship to His Mother ... and consequently His role as Savior.

The questions being debated were when, how, and in what manner did the Second Person of the Trinity - the Divine Logos - unite with the human being Jesus Christ. And when that happened, how many persons, wills, natures, beings, and substances resulted? Did God become a human being or did God join with human flesh?

The Emperor sided with the Archbishop of Constantinople; while the pope sided with the Bishop of Antioch.

This council ended up affirming what is sometimes called the Symbol of Faith - what we know as the Creed - and which we will recite shortly at this Liturgy. *“God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God ... Begotten, not made; consubstantial with the Father”* ... and so on.

And because all “good” theology about Mary affirms “good” theology about Jesus Christ ... the same council affirmed that indeed, Mary is the Mother of God ... because Jesus Christ is truly God and truly Man. One person, two natures ... in what is called the “hypostatic union” of Divinity and humanity.

When all was said and done, the Archbishop of Constantinople was banished to a monastery, and we know him by his name, Nestorius. And the Nestorian heresy is viewed as an intellectual attempt to split the person of Jesus Christ undermining his Divinity at the expense of His humanity.

The bottom line is, that the Faith is to be approached with a certain level of intellectual docility ... and is to be faithfully passed on to succeeding generations. And so if you possess enough intellectual pride ... well ... you just might get a heresy named after you.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ; let us pray that our hearts may resonate with the Immaculate Heart of His Blessed Mother, Our Lady. As she *“kept all these things,”* these mysteries of the Faith revealed to her, *“reflecting on them in her heart”* may we too, through God’s grace, hold fast to, reflect on, and strive to always embody the fullness of the “one, holy, Catholic, and Apostolic” Faith.