



Daily Reflections

December 8, 2017

Scripture

Luke 1: 26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary.

And coming to her, he said,

"Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you."

But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Then the angel said to her,

"Do not be afraid, Mary,

for you have found favor with God.

Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.

He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his Kingdom there will be no end."

But Mary said to the angel,

"How can this be,

since I have no relations with a man?"

And the angel said to her in reply,

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you,

and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.
Therefore the child to be born
will be called holy, the Son of God.
And behold, Elizabeth, your relative,
has also conceived a son in her old age,
and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren;
for nothing will be impossible for God."
Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your word."
Then the angel departed from her.

Our Scripture Reflection

Of course Mary was shocked and troubled at the message of the Angel Gabriel. Her life had been carefully mapped out: She would marry Joseph, together they would have several children, their firstborn son would be named Joseph after his father. What an abrupt and complete change in plans! We honor Mary today because of her Grace-filled response to God...Yes, "May it be done according to Your word." What humility, what faith!

Food for your Journey

In the child of Bethlehem, the life of the world that is to come has come into the life of the world that is.

--Dietrich Bonhoeffer

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Your Blessed Mother surrendered her life immediately and completely to the will of Your Father. As I continue my Advent time of preparation, help me to follow her example by surrendering my life to Your Father's will. Amen.