



Daily Reflections

April 9, 2018

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

Even though today's Gospel passage may seem a bit out of place for the season of Easter, it's message goes along well with the message of Easter. Whereas Jesus turned His life over completely to His Father for our salvation, His Mother also turned her life over completely to the will of her Heavenly Father in order to give birth to the Savior of the world. If we are to imitate Jesus and His Mother, then we must surrender our lives to the will of our Heavenly Father completely and in trust. That is what the virtue of humility is all about.

Food for your Journey

The loss of joy does not make the world better - and, conversely, refusing joy for the sake of suffering does not help those who suffer. The contrary is true. The world needs people who discover the good, who rejoice in it and thereby derive the courage and impetus to do good.

We have a new need for that primordial trust which ultimately faith can give. That the world is basically good, that God is there and is good. That it is good to live and be a human being. This results, then, in the courage to rejoice, which in turn becomes commitment to making sure that other people, too, can rejoice and receive good news.

-Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, *Salt of the Earth* (Ft. Collins, Colo.: Ignatius Press, 1997), 36-37.

A Prayer from the Heart

Heavenly Father, During this Holy Easter season I rejoice in being a disciple of Your Son. Please give me the Grace this day to completely surrender my life to Your desires for me. May I experience the Joy that only You can give. Amen.