



Daily Reflections

December 20, 2018

Scripture

Luke 1: 26-38

In the sixth month,
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

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you...": Nothing happens by chance in the Kingdom of God St. Luke teaches us through his use of the words Holy Spirit. Check this out:

1. St. Mark uses those words 5 times
2. St. Matthew 12 times
3. St. John 15 times

St. Luke in his gospel and second volume, Acts, 73 times!

Yes, St. Luke teaches us that God is actively involved in human history through His Holy Spirit, especially in the Conception, Birth, Ministry, Suffering, Death, Resurrection, Ascension of Jesus and at Pentecost for the Early Church.

What a cause for rejoicing, my Friends!

Food for your Journey

Today in Yellow Springs, Ohio, people are still receiving Christmas presents from ex-slave Wheeling Gaunt, who was born in 1812 and who died in 1894. Just before he died, he deeded nine acres of land at the south edge of the village to the town of Yellow Springs, the proceeds of which were to buy perpetual Christmas gifts for "poor widows," which the village continues to

do to this day. Ten pounds of flour and 10 pounds of sugar arrive at the home of every widow in town just in time for holiday baking, thanks to this former slave.

The inscription on his plaque reads: "Not what you get, but what you give."

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, You love us so much and You show Your love by always being with us to love, bless and save us. As I prepare to celebrate the birth of Your only Son, make me truly humble and grateful. Amen