



# Lenten

# Reflections

The Divine Intervention

**March 20, 2017**

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## Scripture

### **Matthew 1: 16-24**

Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary.  
Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ.  
Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about.  
When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph,  
but before they lived together,  
she was found with child through the Holy Spirit.  
Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man,  
yet unwilling to expose her to shame,  
decided to divorce her quietly.  
Such was his intention when, behold,  
the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,  
"Joseph, son of David,  
do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.  
For it is through the Holy Spirit  
that this child has been conceived in her.  
She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,  
because he will save his people from their sins."  
When Joseph awoke,  
he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him  
and took his wife into his home.

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

Today's Gospel text contains the annunciation to Joseph, husband of Mary and is found only in Matthew's Gospel. Three times God speaks to him through the voice of an angel in a dream. Each time Joseph is asked to do something difficult, and each time he responds with immediacy and obedience. During those times in your life when you are faced with a difficult challenge, God is knocking on the door of your heart, asking you as He did Joseph, to do His will. How do you respond??

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## **Food for your Journey**

The great masquerade of evil muddles every concept of ethics. Evil appears in the form of light, as good works - even as an historical necessity - or as justice, and utterly confuses one who comes from the traditional world of ethical ideas. For the Christian who lives by the Bible, however, these forms of evil simply confirm its abysmal wickedness. Who is able to withstand this evil? Only he to whom the last measure is not his own reason, his principles, his freedom or even his conscience - but rather his readiness to sacrifice all of these: only he who is called to deeds of obedience and responsibility in faith and single-minded communion with God; only he who will let his life become nothing, as answer to God's request or call.

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Letters and Papers From Prison* (Touchstone, 1997),  
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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Take, O Lord, and receive my entire liberty, my memory, my understanding and my whole will. All that I am and all that I possess, Thou hast given me: I surrender it all to Thee to be disposed of according to Thy will. Give me only Thy love and Thy grace; with these I will be rich enough and will desire nothing more. Amen.