



Marianist Moments

Feast of the Annunciation

Patronal Feast of the Marianist Family

~ Meeting aid ~



Introduction

Every March 25, we celebrate the feast of the Annunciation unless the feast is moved to a later date due to the season of Lent and Easter. In the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel appears to Mary and gives her the message of God's plan of salvation for humanity. Mary gives her consent to this plan of salvation. The event of the Annunciation appears in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 1. In Marianist history, the feast of the Annunciation is considered the patronal feast of the Marianist Family.

Prayer

Adapted from the Mass to the Annunciation of the Lord

✠ Eternal God, who willed that your Word should take on the reality of human flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary, grant, we pray, that we, who confess our Redeemer to be God and man, may merit to become partakers even in his divine nature. We pray on this feast of the Annunciation that the peace and justice of Christ spread throughout our world, heal all conflicts, and end all ongoing wars. We make this prayer through Christ your Son. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Luke 1: 26-38, RSVCE

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." And

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no husband?" And the angel said to her, "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, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Silent Introspection

Marian Writings, Vol 2, 781, William Joseph Chaminade

Contemplate the following text from the writings of Father Chaminade on Mary's Annunciation.

... We have but to call to mind all the mysteries of our Savior Jesus Christ. We find Mary everywhere. Mary has had a share in all the glorious, joyful, and sorrowful mysteries.

How could we find Jesus without Mary, since Jesus did not want to come to us without Mary's consent?

The angel did not dare even to pronounce her holy name. "Hail, full of grace!" What respect he had for this vessel of election, this masterpiece from the hands of God, this hope of the elect! It was only after Mary had said, "Let it be with me according to your word," only after she had given her consent that the Son of the Most High became man. . .



Group Sharing

Mary's yes is a model of faith in our life as Marianists. How is God inviting me to imitate her in giving consent to something new in my life and ministry?



(Image: Annunciation, Church of Saint Léger et Sainte Gébertrude, Jussarupt, France)

✠ May the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary. Amen.