

DECEMBER 8, 2020
Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM
Luke 1: 26-38

“BRING WHOLENESS AND HEALING.”

Our celebration for today, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, is fitting for a woman who gave all for God, that’s why, she was given a privilege suited for her to be the Mother of God. This privilege centers on the loving power and generosity of God. The Blessed Virgin Mary’s integrity or holiness to be immaculate conceived is not something she achieved by her own power but a pure gift of God. But all of this will not happen without the Fiat, the Yes of Mary as we heard in the gospel today. It is supremely appropriate that the woman who brought the Messiah ought to be totally free from any sins, willing and available to do the work of God whatever it takes without any doubt and inhibition from her.

“The First Reading reminds us that it was a woman who was instrumental in bringing pain and suffering, the result of sin, to the whole world. It will also be a woman who will be instrumental in bringing to the world its salvation and healing. The Second Reading tells us that all of us have been called by God to share his love and blessings long before we even existed. This is even more true of Mary, who was singled out from eternity by God to be the Mother of his Son.”¹

My brothers and sisters, sometimes we are the cause of pain, discomfort, anxiety, distress, and sin in other people’s lives. We are like Eve, the woman in the First Reading, who because of our weaknesses, we bring difficulties and problems, pain, and sorrow to others. But Mary, through her obedience, humility, love, and sacrifice, brought hope and salvation. So, let us imitate our Blessed Mother to bring wholeness and healing in other people’s lives. Let us bring joy and happiness, hope and encouragement, strength and

¹ livingspace.sacredspace.ie

vigor, love, and compassion to those people around us. Let us bring in our Jesus to them, our brothers and sisters. Like Mary, let us always say our unconditional 'Yes' to all that God wants from us and say: "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."²

My brothers and sisters, let us ask the intercession of Mary to help us love, obey and give all for Jesus as she did. May Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, pray for us.

² Luke 1: 38 NRSV Catholic Bible Press USA