

MARCH 25, 2022
Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord
Luke 1: 26-38

“YES, LORD!”

There are stories in the Bible, the impossible become possible through God’s power. In the Old Testament, Moses divided the sea and Israelites walked through it, Abraham who has no child before became the father of all nations. In the New Testament, Elizabeth who was barren became pregnant with John the Baptist, Peter healing the paralyzed man, and of course Jesus’ life – God became man, and miracles after miracles. The feast we are celebrating today is the great manifestation of God’s power: a woman gave birth to a Son without knowing a man and remained a Virgin. The question we also ask: how it can be? Only God knows and there is no impossible with God as the angel Gabriel said to Mary.

“Today, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation, the proclamation of the Good News of salvation. It is not only a joyful event but also a very profound event in God’s plan of salvation. Yet for Mary, it was not just an event; it was for her a mission. And if she said ‘Yes’ then it was going to be a life-long mission. And it was going to be difficult. But God assured her it was not going to be impossible. Mary put her faith and trust in God as she accepted her mission. According to Pope Francis, ‘Mary’s ‘yes’ opened the way to God among us. It is the most important ‘yes’ in history, the humble ‘yes’ that overturns the arrogant ‘no’ of the origins, the faithful ‘yes’ that cures disobedience; the willing ‘yes’ that overturns the egoism of sin.’”¹

Mary was afraid, in doubt, and perplexed. We can feel the same with her when we are confronted with this kind of situation. We sometimes ask the Lord: how can this be, why it happened, why we are in difficulty, suffering and in pain? But the messenger

¹ stories4homilies.blogspot.com

of God, the angel Gabriel assured her: 'Do not be afraid', provides us hope in the midst of problems, troubles and uncertainties that God has its own plan for our lives and salvation. We are living in difficult and fragile times today because of conflict, wars, pandemic and all kinds of things everywhere. We try our best to believe and live out the word of God, the gospel of love, which is not only difficult, but seemingly impossible. But let this celebration of the feast of the Annunciation, the Good News of our salvation, remind us that struggles, complexity and difficulty is not equal, the same and synonymous with impossibility.

Pope Francis said: "Today is the celebration of the 'yes'. Indeed, in Mary's 'yes' there is the 'yes' of all of salvation history and there begins the ultimate 'yes' of man and of God: there God re-creates, as at the beginning, with a 'yes', God made the earth and man, that beautiful creation: with this 'yes' I come to do your will and more wonderfully he re-creates the world, he re-creates us all. It is God's 'yes' that sanctifies us, that lets us go forth in Jesus Christ. This is why, today is the right day 'to thank the Lord and to ask ourselves: am I a man or woman of 'yes' or a man or woman of 'no'? Or am I a man or woman who looks away, so as not to respond?"²

My sisters and brothers, let us join Mary to say our daily 'Yes' to the most powerful God because God is greater than any war, pandemic, difficulty, and impossibility. Our strong faith will lead us to work on peace and overcome all 'bad' things because God is with us and will never abandon us. Jesus said, 'I will be with you until the end of the world.' Mary is with us also as we continue praying for peace in the world. So, let us imitate the Blessed Virgin Mary in giving our unconditional 'Yes' to God and follow Christ our Lord this Lenten season.

Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us.

² catholicsstrivingforholiness.org