



December 24, 2017 Fourth Sunday of Advent Lectionary: 11 Gospel LK 1:26-38

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.

Spiritual Reflection:

"The life of Mary is summed up in three words: Ecce, Fiat, and Maginificat. With spiritual fervor, impressed them on your heart, ponder them, and act on them: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord," Ecce. "Let it be does to me according to your word," Fiat (Lk 1:38). "My souls gives praise to the Lord," Maginificat (Lk 1:46)" - Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan. How you respond to God's will is ultimately what will define your life. Other people's opinion will not define you.

Spiritual Questions:

1. What three words define you?
2. Do you invite people or try to intimidate people?
3. What are you most afraid of?
4. What do you do when God's word's trouble you?
5. Why do you think Mary consented?