

March 25, 2017, The Annunciation of the Lord

Isaiah 7: 10-14

Hebrews 10: 4-10

Luke 1:26-38

The Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord is truly the opening for our response to be able to answer God's call to us in a way as memorable as Mary's response. Can we answer the call?

Isaiah proclaims that the Lord will give us a sign that the virgin shall be with child and will bear a son and shall name him Emmanuel, which means, "God is with us!" Are we ready for something as earth shattering?

The angel Gabriel comes to Mary, a virgin betrothed to Joseph from the House of David, announcing to Mary, "Hail, full of Grace." Mary is troubled by this greeting but is reassured that she has found favor with God. She will conceive a son by the power of the Holy Spirit and will name him Jesus, who will be the son of the most high, who will rule forever. Mary willingly accepts to do God's will and to bear this wonderful child into the world.

Isn't it amazing that often, people of God are looking for some sign, some reassurance from God to confirm God's presence within their lives? Mary did not hesitate, nor did she ponder her response to God's calling. She answered immediately that she would fill any role God asked of her. Talk about a very trusting and committed servant of the Lord! It is this perfect example of Mary that we should follow in our own response and commitment to the Lord and his message to serve one another.

Mary is the role model we should seek in our connection with the Lord and what he asks of us. We shouldn't need any outward sign, but should have a real feeling for the presence of God within us and just what we are called to be and to do amongst our fellow children of God.

Reflection questions:

How can we be as willing and eager to answer God's call for us as Mary was to respond to God for what God wills us to be?

Are we willing to trust in God completely in what he asks of us as we reach out to serve those around us who are in need of God's love?

Reflection by Deacon Michael Prendergast, St. Elizabeth Seton.