

This Gospel from Luke is one that is very familiar to us. It is the story of Mary's Annunciation when the angel appeared to her and revealed to her that she would conceive and bear a Son. My dear friends ask yourself, how do you think Mary reacted emotionally to the angel's appearance and to the angel's words that Mary would have a child, even though she had not been with a man?

Let us pay attention to what happened to the conversation between Mary and the angel Gabriel, and how Mary reacted.

Mary listens. The angel announces that the Messiah will be born in her and she listens. Her greatness comes through her faithful listening. Mary listens, asks for clarification and finally accepts to be the servant of the Lord.

Prayer, in essence, is listening. We can ask questions, but the answers will come through listening. It is not only with God that we need a listening attitude. If there are difficulties with members of our family, it is often because we do not know how to listen. We are ready with our answer, but we have not taken time to understand the question.

Mary accepts. Mary is deeply disturbed even by the initial greeting of the angel. But Angel Gabriel showers her with reassurance that everything will be alright."Do not be afraid....The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; (v. 35). These words of assurance eventually brought Mary to turn her negative emotion to a humble word of acceptance.

Mary believes. Her faith was humble and she believed. The angel said to her: “Know that 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 is impossible with God” (vv. 36-37). The important words in the sentence are the words, ‘nothing is impossible with God.’ Before God’s power overshadowed Mary, the world had no hope. The human race had no hope of salvation. It was held slavery by Satan. St. Elizabeth had no hope of giving birth to a son because she was old and barren. Even the Blessed Virgin Mary had no hope of bearing a child because she was a virgin. But when God overshadowed Mary, He changed everything, and Jesus entered the world through Mary’s great sacrifice. We must believe, as Mary did, that ALL things are possible with God.

Mary obeys. Mary takes a risk when she obeys and says, “Let it be done according to your word,” (v. 38). She loves God and hence trusts in Him and obeys, and Mary remained obedient, saying ‘yes’ to God, throughout her earthly life.

Mother of Christ is a title we usually reserve to Mary. Mary is mother of Christ in two senses. She is mother of Christ in the physical sense that she carried Jesus in her womb and gave birth to Him. This is an unrepeatable event and an honor that no other human being can share with her. But she is also mother of Christ in a spiritual sense. And in a spiritual sense, the role of being mother of Christ is available to all Christians. We all, men, women and children, can and should become

mothers of Christ when we welcome Him into our hearts. But to be mothers of Christ is not an easy task.

My dear brothers and sisters, we have a wonderful model in Mary. Like Mary, we need to keep ourselves grounded in the God we know, trust and love. If we do this, then we must believe and trust that we will receive the grace and strength we need in order to obey and follow Him. This will bring us peace. God will bring us peace.

Today let us ask Mary to pray for us. She will walk with us always.