

Lenten Reflection

Saturday, Third Week of Lent March 25, 2017



By Sister Anne Winschel, CDP

We inch our way forward in our Lenten journey. Since we celebrate the Solemnity of the Feast of the Annunciation today, we focus our attention on Mary, a woman of deep faith, who was invited to enter an unknown future, trusting that her provident God would shelter and accompany her on her pathway in life. God would be present to her: the power of the Highest will hover over her.

The gospel of Luke poses a cascade of words for our reflection as women and men of Providence. “How can this be?” “You have nothing to fear.” “The Holy Spirit will come upon you.” “The child you will bring to birth will be called the Holy, Son of God.” “Nothing is impossible with God.”

It is Mary who can teach us how to respond when God’s Providence disrupts the daily course of our lives, overturning its rhythms and expectations. Though Mary was thoroughly shaken by the words of the angel, despite her fears and lack of control over how the promise of the angel could be fulfilled, she still answered “yes.”

When making his pilgrimage to the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth, Pope Benedict XVI offered this prayer to Mary. It speaks for each of us who desire to trust in God’s ever present, loving Providence, in the events and challenges of our lives. “Mary, Mother of the “Yes,” you listened to Jesus, and know the tone of His voice and the beating of his heart. Morning Star, speak to us of him, and tell us about your journey of following him on the path of faith.” (Thomas Roscia, CSB)

May we Lenten Pilgrims be people of great trust and love, carrying the Divine Presence in the womb of our lives and hearts to others and be attentive to any “yes” we may be invited to embrace for the sake of being providence in mission.

