

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



Today's readings:

Bless you! 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16
The appointed time. Romans 16:25-27
A life-changing announcement. Luke 1:26-38

Next week: Holy Family.

Sirach 3:2-6,12-14;
Colossians 3:12-21;
Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

In a nutshell

The angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary reveals the Spirit at work. In our lives, too, the Holy Spirit can delight, overwhelm and challenge us with the surprises of God's love. Like Mary, each of us is called to conceive and bring forth the life of God into the world. Let us surrender ourselves to God's loving plan.



Mary's 'Yes' to being the mother of our Saviour is at the heart of the mystery of the Incarnation (God-made-flesh). Her assent in faith challenges us to be just as responsive to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Ways we say 'Yes'

'Yes to life'

As a parent it fascinates me how our newly born child transforms his environment. Our lives are completely changed. Suddenly everything revolves around this tiny bundle of new life. It's a real point of conversion. It 'breaks you open' - to life, to the sacred - in an indescribable way. To say 'yes' to bringing children into the world is perhaps the greatest 'yes' I have given to the mysterious, creative life of God. (GC)

'Yes, I will.'

In my own vocation, I recall attending a vocations weekend as 19-year-old considering priesthood. The vocations director gave a talk on Mary's 'Yes' to God. During the coffee break I sat on a fence and thought about her courage and trust. After that something had changed. I went back to the vocations director and said I was ready to fill out the application forms. (John)

'Yes, I am.'

As a way of celebrating my life's commitment to Christ and his Church, I have begun to celebrate the anniversary of my baptism. Being single, I don't have a wedding anniversary or ordination date to mark my 20 years of adult commitment to my faith and to the Church's mission, but the commitment is just as serious and, I hope, a witness to others that baptism is fundamental to every Christian vocation. (TP)

Peace to all of goodwill

The week before Christmas, I was in our corner shop which doubles as a post office. Our regular 'postie' was preparing to do yet another busy round of deliveries. The area is full of home units, so dealing with multiple letter boxes must make her job that much harder.

However I was really surprised by her attitude. Firstly, she called all those to whom she delivered mail: her 'clients'. Such a mark of respect for people hidden away in high rise dwellings! Secondly, she was very concerned about those who

had their mail delivery stopped for the holidays, making sure that she 'got it right' for them. And finally, when she learned that one family had moved to another district, she seemed genuinely sad that they had 'left her beat'. What an incredible attitude she brings to what could be a mundane job! Each time I see her moving along our street I view her with a new respect - and silently give thanks for people of goodwill. (JMS)



Think . Talk

Think back over your own life:

- Who has been God's messenger to you?
- How have you said 'yes' to God's call in the past?
- In what way is God inviting you to say 'yes' in the present?
- What gospel qualities (e.g. trust, courage) do you most need in order to be open to new directions?

TeresaPirola.net



RealPeople offers faith reflections from the saints and prophets of everyday life.