

Called by Mary's YES

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Explore how Mary, as Our Good Mother, is a model to our daily lives



The Annunciation by Henry Ossawa Tanner (1898)

Seeing

For 1 minute, look at the image and ask yourself - What am I noticing?

This may include the colours, use of light, perspective, the figures and objects in the image

Write three things that attract your attention and why they interest you.

Discuss

Share your responses with a partner.
(5 minutes)

Participants are invited to share their own responses, or what they have heard, with the larger group.
(5 minutes)

Listening

Listen to the Annunciation story:

The Birth of Jesus Foretold Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "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 holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Re-read the passage to yourself. Circle key words or phrases that stand out for you.

Mary is surprised by the forceful entry of God into her life. She is afraid. Then she comes to be at peace because of her intuition of the presence and love of God for her. Without having all the answers to her questioning, she trusts and commits herself to a God who inspires trust.

Water From the Rock: Marist Spirituality #51

Discuss

Question for discussion in pairs: Share a time you have not 'had the answers' yet placed your trust in God?
(5 minutes)

Responding

Mary: The Model of Discipleship

In the Synoptic Gospels, Mary is presented as a model of discipleship. More simply, she's shown to us as the one person who gets it right from the beginning. But that isn't immediately evident. On the surface, the opposite sometimes seems to be the case. For example, on a couple of occasions as Jesus is speaking to a crowd he is interrupted and told that his mother and his family are outside wanting to speak to him. His response: "Who are my mother and who are my brothers and sisters? It's those who hear the word of God and keep it." In saying this, Jesus isn't distancing his mother from himself and his message, the opposite. Before this incident is recorded in the Gospels, the evangelists have been very careful to point out that Mary was the first person to hear the word of God and keep it. What happens here is that Jesus singles out his mother first of all for her faith, not for her biology. In the Synoptic Gospels, Mary is the paradigm for discipleship. She's the first to hear the word of God and keep it.

Ron Rolheiser: *The Mary of Scripture and the Mary of Devotion*. June 25, 2018

Reflect

In your own knowledge and experience of Mary in scripture, or in prayer and reflection, how is she a 'Sister in Faith' to you in your own faith journey?

Since Marcellin's time the Church has deepened its appreciation of Mary as First Disciple. Marists therefore have a growing relationship with Mary as our Sister in Faith, a woman with dust on her feet, a woman who was disturbed and puzzled by God, who was challenged to trust and give without knowing all the answers, whose faith life was a journey.

Water From the Rock: Marist Spirituality #29

References:

The Annunciation by Henry Ossawa Tanner (1998)

New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition Bible

Ron Rolheiser: "The Mary of Scripture and the Mary of Devotion" June 25, 2018 (www.ronrolheiser.com)

Water From the Rock: Marist Spirituality (2007) (www.champagnat.org)

Br Sean Sammon fms, *A Heart That Knew No Bounds* (1999) (www.champagnat.org)

