



## FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION MEDITATION

St. Thomas More Catholic Church

May 7, 2022

### The Annunciation

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In addition to going to confession, receiving the Holy Eucharist, and praying the Rosary—all with the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, our Lady asks us to spend fifteen minutes with her following the Rosary, meditating on one or all of the mysteries contained therein.

Let us do that now.

I would like to ask you to take a couple of deep breaths, relax your minds, close your eyes, and imagine, if you will, that you have been accorded the privilege to visit our Lady at her home, where you get to speak with her firsthand about one particular or all of the mysteries that make up the Holy Rosary. We will conclude the meditation with the closing prayer and fellowship.

Close your eyes. Relax. And place yourself in the moment. This moment where we meet Jesus through His mother; the mother that Jesus wishes to be known and loved; the white lady of peace in whom the peace of the world has been entrusted. Love, prayer, and Holy Mother Church are the only true means to real peace and salvation.

**+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Our meditation opens with us standing before a wooden door that is attached to a simple, modern home located on a hillside. It is a beautiful spring day outside. You can hear the birds chirping, children playing, and a woman humming a beautiful melody to herself inside the home.



The hillside is covered with homes as far as the eyes can see and everyone appears happy. The grass and trees are sporting their fresh post-winter leaves of green, and everyone is going about doing what they normally do on any given day, including helping their neighbors.

You begin to get lost in your thoughts when suddenly, the lady of the home opens the door and says, **“Hello.”** She has a beaming ear-to-ear smile on her face as she greets you. **“I am so glad you came to visit me today,”** she says. **“Please, come in and make yourself comfortable. Joseph and Jesus aren’t here right now. They are out delivering some of the recent woodwork they completed for a customer”**

Imagine the inviting and welcoming smile our Lady flashes at you as you notice the excitement in her eyes because YOU have stopped to visit her.

As you enter her home you are surprised, or perhaps not, at the simplicity of the home. The simple wood furniture, obviously made by Joseph. The soft, plain linens across some of the tables. The pillows on the floor, the sandals in the corner, a broom standing alone against a wall next to a picture of a drawing hanging on the wall.

**“Thank you for noticing that picture,”** Mary says looking at the image as only a mother can, her eyes beaming with a hint of a mother’s joy and love. **“That is a picture of our family that Jesus drew for us when he was five years old,”** she says.

You stare at the picture with great intensity, slightly anxious because you cannot believe that you are in the home of the Holy Family, looking at an image drawn by the Son of God and being waited on by His Mother.

You are lost in your thoughts when suddenly you hear our Lady ask, **“Do you prefer your coffee with or without cream and sugar?”**

Suddenly, your mind snaps back into full consciousness as you turn toward our Lady and say, **“Mother, please, coffee and cream? Who am I that the mother of my Lord would serve me coffee?”**



Mary chuckles as she makes her way to the table with the coffee and snacks and says, **“You, as am I, are one of the flock; the sheep that my Son loves; the one that He goes searching for when they have gone astray and are unable to find their way home. And now you are home. What is it the Hispanic community is always fond of saying, which by the way is a phrase I always like to repeat, ‘Mi casa is su casa!’ My home, or in this case, our home, is your home. Besides, my Son would not have it any other way and neither would I.”**

You are so disarmed by Mary’s smile, joy, humility, motherly tenderness, and response that you, without warning, immediately fall to your knees and begin sobbing uncontrollably because of the gratitude and joy you are giving to God, at that moment, in your heart for the privilege of being in the presence of the Mother of God, and also, because you see yourself as the sinner you are and for that reason find yourself unable to look at Mary because of your shame.

And what does our Lady do?

She puts the coffee and snacks down on the table, rushes to you, lifts you up, places you into her arms, presses your face against her heart, and comforts you before saying, **“Now! Now! It’s okay. My Son knows who you are, and He knows your heart. He knows how sorry you are for your sins and how much you love Him. Know that when you ask His forgiveness in the way that you are grieving in this moment, His love and mercy knows no bounds. Do you not know that there is no sin that is greater than my Son’s mercy?”**

You look up, your eyes filled with tears, a deep sorrow in your heart for your sins as you look to Mary who then says, **“Then trust in His mercy. When He says in the person of His priest that your sins are forgiven, your sins are forgiven. Besides, as a mother, I am always praying and interceding for you with my Son.”**

Mary’s words penetrate your heart to the degree that you are so consoled, you resolve at that moment to confess your sins, do penance, and amend your life.

Mary smiles, and says, **“Good. Now let’s have coffee and chat, shall we?”**



You make your way to the table at Mary's invitation where she has coffee and pastries at the ready. **"Please, help yourself to a pastry,"** she says. **"I will serve your coffee."** You begin to ask our Lady not to serve you but to let you serve her when she asks, **"Is a mother not happiest when she is doing for her children?"**

You have no choice but to surrender yourself completely to Jesus through Mary.

You select your pastry as our Lady serves your coffee. Only after serving you and making certain you are comfortable does she serve herself before sitting down and asking, **"So, what would you like to talk about today?"**

You pause for a moment still reeling at the fact that you are in the presence of the mother of the Lord, at their home, when you ask nervously, **"May we talk about the Annunciation?"**

Our Lady smiles before asking about the list of questions you have in your pocket. **"O my goodness!"** you silently say to yourself. **"How did..."** before stopping yourself from asking how she knew about the questions in your pocket. **"Of course, she knows,"** you reason to yourself. **"She is the mother of God."**

You thank Mary for reminding you about the questions as you pull them from your pocket. The paper you have written them on is crumpled and wrinkled. You are a bit embarrassed. Our Lady smiles and says, **"Don't be embarrassed. It's just crumpled paper that was in your pocket. That is bound to happen."**

You chuckle nervously. Mary then asks, **"Are you still nervous? Have another pastry. I made them myself. These are Jesus' favorites. Eat one or two of those and soon you will be as happy as a lark and as calm as a gentle wind gliding across the water."**

You do as Our Lady suggested and without giving it a second thought, you become calm and serene. At that moment you unfold the paper with the list of questions and ask the first question...



“What was it like that day when the angel Gabriel appeared to you? What were you doing? What thoughts raced through your mind?”

Mary paused for a moment, thought about the questions, and said, “Those are great questions. Thank you for asking. That day was much like today except it was warmer, but not hot. I was in the kitchen preparing a meal for Joseph when I heard what sounded like the wind rustling through the tree branches. I was the only one home at the time.

My back was to the front door. I had just put a bowl on the table to mix some ingredients when I suddenly saw the glare of a light on the wall. When I turned around, there he was, standing in a light brighter than the sun, but it did not hurt my eyes.

Was I afraid? Not in the way we understand fear as in, ‘Was I afraid the angel was going to hurt me?’ No, I was not. How about I let Luke tell the story...”

Luke, chapter 1, verses 26-38:

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary.

And coming to her, he said, “Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you.”

But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Imagine the archangel Gabriel appearing to you and saying, “Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God.”

The archangel Gabriel goes on to say...Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most



High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

Imagine the thoughts that must have been racing through our Lady's mind as the angel spoke those words to her...**that she will conceive a son whom she will name Jesus. A son who will be great and called Son of the Most High, whose kingdom will have no end.**

Continuing with Luke 1, verse 34...**But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?"**

**And the angel said to her in reply, "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 called holy, the Son of God.**

Not only does the angel say that Mary will conceive by the Holy Spirit and that it will be the power of the Most High working within her and through this event, but he also goes on to say in verse 36...

**And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; (and these next words the angel speaks are important for us to remember) ...for nothing will be impossible for God.**

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

"For nothing is impossible with God," the angel says. "May it be done to me according to your word," Mary says in response.

How is Mary's reaction different from that of Zechariah, the father of St. John the Baptist? If you recall, the archangel Gabriel also appeared to him (see Luke, chapter 1, verse 12-20).



According to Jimmy Akins, senior apologist of Catholic Answers, in an article that appeared on the National Catholic Register website, dated March 25, 2020, titled, **8 Things To Know And Share About The Annunciation:**

### **#3. How does this story parallel the birth of John the Baptist?**

According to Akins, in both stories there are multiple parallels:

- The Angel Gabriel makes the announcement.
- He announces to a single individual: Zechariah in John the Baptist's case and Mary in Jesus' case.
- He announces the miraculous birth of an individual who has a prominent place in God's plan.
- He is met with a question in both cases (Zechariah asks how he can know this will happen; Mary asks how it will happen)
- A miraculous sign is offered as evidence (Zechariah is struck dumb; Mary is told of Elizabeth's miraculous pregnancy, which is in its sixth month)
- Gabriel departs.

### **#4. How is Mary's reaction different than Zechariah's?**

At first glance, Mary's reaction to Gabriel could appear like Zechariah's unbelieving reaction, but it is fundamentally different, according to Akins.

Like Zechariah, she asks a question, but it is a question of a different sort:

- Zechariah asked how he could *know* what the angel says would be true. His attitude was one of skepticism.
- Mary does not ask for proof. Instead, she asks *how* the angel's words will be fulfilled. She accepts what he says and wants to understand specifically how it will take place. Her attitude is thus one of faith seeking understanding, not a lack of faith.



Just then the door opens and in walks Joseph and Jesus. Both kiss Mary on the cheek and greet you before Jesus says, “Ah, I see you have come to me through my mother. That is a good. I like that. Welcome to our home.”

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.