

The Annunciation.  
The First Mystery of the Rosary.



SEE: Mary is at her home praying. She is very young, only sixteen. Most Jewish maidens aspired to the great dignity of becoming the mother of the King (The Messiah who would be the great leader and saviour of his nation. But Mary had other desires she wanted to serve God quietly in another way, by prayer and sacrifice; she had already dedicated herself to this service by the vow of virginity.

God had plans for Mary. He disclosed them to her through one of his messengers -- Gabriel, an angel who took human form and appeared to Mary, "Would this young maid become the mother of the Messiah?" -- to get the answer to that question was Gabriel's mission.

Mary was perturbed, because there was a conflict. How to keep her vow of virginity, and yet become a mother? The angel quieted Mary's fears by explaining that God alone and no man would be the father of her child. Immediately upon seeing the Divine Plan, Our Lady offered her services to God: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, may it be done unto me according to Thy word."

THINK: Mary need not have accepted the role of Mother of the Messiah. God did not force her consent. Another girl might have refused quickly, if she knew, as Mary knew, that the Messiah would be a Man of Sorrows, and that the Mother would share in his troubles. But Mary did not look at the cross she would have to carry. She looked up at God who made the request and consented out of love for Him and for the good of souls.

DO: Many times each day God sends his Gabriel to me and this messenger asks me to do His will in some way. Those messengers are the many events that turn up during the day, disappointments, failures, sickness, opportunities to practice charity and patience and the like. God wants me to say, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" to all these. I, like Mary, will enter into His plan for the Divine Glory and for the good of my own soul.

1. When one says the rosary before the Blessed Sacrament, meditating on the mysteries, he gains a plenary indulgence for himself.
2. Every Catholic should know the mysteries of the rosary by heart. You will find them in the Notre Dame prayerbook.
3. You will find rosaries in the Dillon hall pamphlet rack.

PRAYERS: (deceased) sister of Brother Vincent, CSC; cousin of Don Fisher (OC)  
(Ill) Prof. Carlton Hayes, (Laetare Medalist); mother of Father Philip Moore, CSC; grandmother of Jerome Dobyns (St.Eds); mother of Norbert Immel (Dil). Two Special Intentions. Two Thanksgivings.