

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

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The Annunciation

"The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary, and she conceived of the Holy Ghost."



During the whole of Lent only two feast days are allowed to break in on the somber procession of purple-vested Masses. One we observed last week, the Feast of St. Joseph; and the second we observe today, the Feast of the Annunciation.

Both feasts take our minds off the sober realities of penance and suffering to redirect our attention to the beginnings of our Redemption -- to St. Joseph, the protector and provider of the Child Jesus, and to the Annunciation when through Mary's consent, the Redemptive cycle in the history of man began.

In the Annunciation "we celebrate the wedding of the Holy Spirit with humanity, the wedding of the Spirit of Wisdom and Love with the dust of the earth.....

"It is in Our Lady that God fell in love with Humanity.

"It is upon her that the Dove descended, and the love of God for humanity culminated in the conception of Christ in the human race.

"When she surrendered herself to God, there was indeed a miraculous New Heaven and New Earth. The Spirit entered the world -- light and wisdom and love, patience, fortitude, and joy entered the human heart and mind, and in the sight of God a springtime of loveliness woke in the world. In the virginal emptiness of the girl, Mary of Nazareth, Christ was conceived; it was the wedding of God to a human child, and the wonder of it filled the earth for all time."

from The Reed of God
by Caryll Houselander

Moreau Retreat

There is still room for a few more retreatants at Moreau next weekend. Write: Retreat Reservations, P.O.Box 124, Notre Dame. Include a \$2.00 deposit.

**Let heaven rejoice, and earth be glad,
For He Who reigns above
With all His Father's glory clad,
Hath shown His perfect love.**

**O wonder of surpassing might!
With men dwells God the Son,
The womb contains the Infinite,
Time holds the timeless One.**

**Hail! Mary, thou art full of grace,
Blest evermore art thou,
The Lord, Whose mercies all embrace,
Himself is with thee now.**

Byzantine Mosaic, Sticheron at Matins.
St. John of Damascus, 8th century