



**Prayer for Vocations
March 25, 2021**

Gospel according to Saint 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 betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, you who enjoy God's favor! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her,

'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Look! You are to conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob forever and his reign will have no end.'



Illustration: Marijke ten Cate

Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I have no knowledge of man?' The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. And I tell you this too: your cousin Elizabeth also, in her old age, has conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' Mary said, 'You see before you the Lord's servant; let it happen to me as you have said.' And the angel left her.

Reflection:

Mary receives this announcement in the midst of her daily routine. What an announcement! An announcement that changes history, that changes our destinies, that does not mean, in Mary's generous response, that she had total clarity. On the contrary, her generosity begins in recognizing that nothing is her own, that everything comes from God. Generosity makes us live confidently and gratefully. Where there is generosity there is no fear.

It is said that Mary was only a young girl when she received this news from God. For our time, such an adolescent pregnancy would be criminal. But those were different times; as was the time when many of our sisters entered the Society at 16, 17, 18 years old. Just as there is nothing impossible for God, age is not an obstacle to continue responding with generosity and joy to God's will.



Questions that may help us share:

- I remember coming to the awareness of my vocation and my call to the Society of the Sacred Heart. How old was I? How did I experience that invitation from God to share my life in the Congregation?
- Just as the angel said to Mary, "Rejoice," what joys has God has given me as a Religious of the Sacred Heart of Jesus?

After sharing, we are invited:

- Let us be grateful women because God has looked at each one of us as we are. Through all we live in the different stages of life, may the Lord continue to remind us of his call to renew our "yes" in an ever more simple and honest way.

- Let us pray for the women who are discerning a call to religious life, especially in the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. (We can name women who are interested.)

- Let us also ask Madeleine Sophie to send "adorers" to the Society of the Sacred Heart; may the Lord help us to be a testimony of his love and to welcome new generations.

- We offer other intentions ...

- We end with the Prayer for Vocations ...