

May 15, 2016

Dear Parishioners:

The month of May is traditionally dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God. When the Archangel Gabriel came to Mary and said that she was bear in her womb a son named Jesus, Mary was perplexed and said “How can this be since I have no relations with a man?” When Gabriel explained that this would happen through the Holy Spirit, Mary said, “Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” The Latin word for “may it be done” is “fiat.” Mary’s *fiat*, her consent, brought Christ into the world.

The prayer that pays tribute to a crucial aspect of Mary’s role in the Incarnation is “The Angelus.” In Latin the opening words are: “Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae,” which is translated “The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.” This prayer lasts just 3 minutes and is to be said three times a day. Every day the bells in our church ring out three times, 8:00, 12:00, and 6:00, inviting you to stop and pray the Angelus.

How many people stop to say this brief prayer? I venture that few do. I’d like you to consider this practice. The words are:

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary, R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary...

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord. R. Be it done unto me according to Your Word. Hail Mary...

V. And the Word was made flesh, R. And dwelt among us. Hail Mary...

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God. R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech You, O Lord, Your Grace into our hearts; that we to whom the incarnation of Christ, your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His passion and cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Angelus pays tribute to a crucial aspect of Mary’s role in the Incarnation. When you hear our bells ring, whether at 8:00, 12:00, or 6:00, stop what you are doing and say those words.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. David A. Sork  
Pastor