**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 08 – II WEEK OF ADVENT [C]**

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION BLESSED VIRGIN 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.**

**To whom is the Angel Gabriel sent? “To a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David.” Being Joseph of the house of David, He is heir of the prophecy made by God to his father thousand year before. The virgin has a name. Her name is Mary. In the history of salvation, the plan of blessing and of life of the Lord has always entrusted on single people. The Angel goes her house, namely to the Virgin Mary and says: "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." Mary is invited to rejoice. What is the reason of this invitation? Because She is filled with grace. She is full of grace. She is not full of grace. Full of grace is her name. She is the filled with grace. The filled with grace must rejoice for the Lord is with Her. The Lord is in Her and the Lord is with Her. God dwells in Her with all the power of his light. Not only does the light of God shine in her soul and in her heart, but it also surrounds Mary and clothes Her in his body. She is the woman clothed with light, clothed with God. God makes a wall of fire for her. Evil might ever approach Her. Mary is the deed of the deeds of God. She overcomes all the Angels and the entire universe for beauty and spiritual magnificence. Of no creature can one say what one says of Mary. She is a unique creature among the creatures of the Lord.**

**Mary is aware of being before a true supernatural manifestation. The trouble attests her conscience and her science of being before an Angel of the Lord. God has entered her life by the means of the Angel. When God enters a life of a person, He enters because He has a plan to fulfil upon him. The plan of God is always of supernatural salvation. While Mary wonders, the Angel thus continues his announcement: "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.” When does a person fin favour with God? When God is delighted with the person for his faithfulness to Him. He finds favour, when God is delighted with the person for his full obedience to the Word. There is a great difference between finding favour of a person with God or with other people and the finding favour of Mary. With God, Mary finds favour since God reflects himself in Her more than the sun in a mirror. In Mary, God sees all himself. He sees the magnificence of his beauty, his omnipotence, his wisdom and intelligence. Here the first reasons why the Angel is in the house of Mary: it is for divine reasons. The Lord has decided to fulfil his prophecies. Mary is called to be the Mother of the Messiah, of the Son of the Most High. But we can still think that the Son of the Most High is only the Messiah of the Lord. In fact, God the Lord will give him the throne of David, his father. With these words, the promise made by God to David and confirmed by the prophets is fulfilled. We can already think it in these first passages. Then, the Words of the Angel penetrate into the mystery and we are obliged to have a thought and a new truth about the Messiah of the Lord.**

**Let us read from the text of Lk 1,26-38**

**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. 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." 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. 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; 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.**

**Now all the knowledge and wisdom of the Holy Spirit filling the heart, the soul, the Spirit of the Virgin Mary is revealed. Mary has listened. How will this prophecy be fulfilled? What will She have to do? How will She have to act? What deeds fulfil? The prophecy says what will happen. But it does not say how it will happen. It does not say what She will have to do and what the others have to do. It is righteous thing that the Angel shows Her the historical modalities of the fulfilment, too. Failing the historical modalities is giving the prophecy an erroneous fulfilment. Even Abraham received the announcement of the paternity. He failed the modality. Instead of waiting for a son from Sarah, he had him from Agar upon advice of Sarah.**

**Here is what the Virgin Mary will have to do. Nothing. Nothing at all. The Holy Spirit will operate everything in Her. She will not conceive as all women on earth conceive. In Her, the most powerful deed of God will happen. She will conceive without a man. “Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.” The name is the being. The being is the name. The one who will be born will be called Son of God, as He is really the Son of God. He is the Eternal Son of the Father. In the womb of the Virgin Mary, the Son of Man makes himself flesh. The Messiah is the Son of God and Son of Mary. This is a mystery that is unique in time, in history, in God, in eternity. Jesus is the man God and the God man, He is the true God who made himself true man and He is the true man who, in reason of the Incarnation, is also the true God.**

**Now the Angel wants to reassure the Virgin Mary further. He gives Her a sign of his trustfulness. “And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age.” Why is this a sign for Mary? Because Elizabeth is already in her sixth month and everyone knows that she was called barren. She was barren. God entered her life with his divine omnipotence and her womb became fertile. She generated a son with Zechariah. This is he seal to the entire announcement made by the Angel. Is there anything impossible for God? Nothing. He can everything in heaven and on earth. It is enough that He says one only Word and what does not exist becomes existent and the impossible is made possible. This is the omnipotence of the Lord. It is for the omnipotence that the creation exists. But it is also for his omnipotence that the creation lives. Instead, man thinks that everything is from nature. He does not know that the nature is from God. Today it is from God. The Virgin Mary is filled with grace, full of Holy Spirit, filled with God. The grace, the Holy Spirit, the Father, the Son of whom She is filled with prompt mind and heart toward them. She, in which God dwells, cannot but be of God. When a man is prompted toward God, it is sign that God does not dwell in Him.**

**Mary, who is fully filled with God, is prompted toward God and She immediately gives her consent. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." God entirely dwells in Mary. Mary entirely makes herself a gift to God. How much do we give ourselves to God? We give ourselves in the measure in which God dwells in us. If God dwells a little, we give a little. If God dwells a lot, we give a lot. The gift is in the measure of the presence. Whoever wants to give himself entirely to God must ensure to grow in the dwelling of God in him. The less God grows and the less one gives himself. The more He grows and the more one gives himself. When one hands himself over to God a little, it is because God dwells in us a little. The mission has been fulfilled by the Angel. Now it is time that He comes back to the One who sent him so that he communicates the positive outcomes of it. The Eternal Word of the Father can make himself flesh. Everything happens at that moment. As soon as Mary gives herself to God, the Word of God in Her makes himself flesh in Her. He is conceived through the work of the Holy Spirit. This is the moment of the Incarnation: "May it be done to me according to your word." Et Verbum caro factum est. May the Mother of God and our Mother help us. We want to be part of this great mystery.**