

April 8, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Easter



Center for Spiritual Development

SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

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Today's feast honors the beginning of God's incarnation, the most intimate sharing of God's life with ours.

It is celebrated with symbols of the Holy Spirit, such as wind and fire.

In Greece Christians fly kites on this day. Jamaicans race sailboats. French and Scandinavian people traditionally make yeast-raised waffles served with whipped cream.

Today's Gospel

from An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament, First Nations Version

When six moons had passed [after Creator Will Remember (Zechariah) and Creator Is My Promise (Elizabeth) were visited by a spirit-messenger], the Great Spirit sent the same spirit-messenger, Creator's Mighty One (Gabriel), to another small, out-of-the-way place in the hill country called Seed Planter Village (Nazareth). There he appeared to a young virgin name Bitter Tears

(Mary), who was promised in marriage to a man named He Gives Sons (Joseph), a descendant of the great chief Much Loved One (David).

Creator's Mighty One (Gabriel) said to her, "Greetings, highly favored one! You are close to the Great Spirit and greatly honored among women." Bitter Tears (Mary) was deeply troubled by this greeting and wondered what the spirit-messenger would say. "Do not fear," he comforted her, "for you have found goodwill in the eyes of the Great Mystery. You will be with child and give birth to a son. You will name him Creator Sets Free (Jesus)." It seemed like time stood still, and all creation stopped to listen as the messenger continued to speak.

"He will be greatly honored, the Son of the One Above Us All. He will be a great chief like his ancestor Much Loved One (David) and will sit in his seat of honor. He will always be chief over the tribes of Wrestles with Creator (Israel). His chiefly guidance will never end." Bitter Tears' (Mary's) voice trembled with emotion, and her eyes grew wide as she looked into the face of the spirit-messenger. She asked, "How will this be, since I have never been with a man?" Creator's Mighty One (Gabriel) answered, "The Holy Spirit will spread his wings over you, and his great power from above will overshadow you. This holy child born to you will be the Son of the One Above Us All."

Then, to encourage her, he said, "Your cousin Creator Is My Promise (Elizabeth), who was called Barren One, is six moons with child. See! There is nothing too hard for the Great Spirit." She looked bravely into the face of the messenger. "I am Creator's servant," she said with boldness. "Let it be for me just as you have said." Then Creator's chief spirit-messenger left her.

LUKE 1:26-38

Reflection

The dialogue between Mary and Gabriel focuses on the reality that we humans don't always comprehend Divine intention and/or process. Still, God keeps us in the conversation. The connection is just too important to get "lost." Good thing God is the originator and sustainer of this relationship. Our only work is "yes" and "thanks."



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For Pondering

- What was involved in your last "yes" to God's invitation to you?
- What form of expression did your "thanks" take? Words of gratitude? Silent appreciation? Some form of service to your neighbor?

For Prayer

The mystery of the Incarnation is expressed in the Angelus prayer. These are its final words:

*Lord, fill our hearts with your grace:
once, through the message of an angel,
you revealed to us the incarnation of your Son;
now, through his suffering and death,
lead us to the glory of his resurrection.
Amen.*

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