



Daily Reflections

ANGEL GABRIEL'S ANNUNCIATION TO JOSEPH

By Sr. Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Today's Gospel

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. He had no relations with her until she bore a son, and he named him Jesus.

Reflection

As we read above, Mary was found to be with child before Joseph and Mary lived together. What a dilemma for Joseph, her betrothed husband! At first, he was shocked and shamed. How can this be? What will he do? The only thing was to break the financial contract of their marriage, and yet, in his compassion, he knew it must be done quietly. Fearfully, Joseph was beginning to make this decision when God broke into his dream through the angel's message: *"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary, your wife, into your home."* Joseph learned that Mary's pregnancy was by God's power; what was happening in his beloved was the creative work of God's Holy Spirit! The messenger told Joseph that Mary would bear a son and Joseph would take the traditional role of father and name him "Jesus." A fitting name, for Jesus means Savior. He will save his people from their sins, and he will be called *"Emmanuel, which means God is with us."* The angel was announcing the good news to Joseph, that through Mary's virginal conception, he would witness the birth of the Son of God. An awesome message indeed!



Joseph's Dream
Photo by Alicia Rodriguez

For Pondering

Like Mary, Joseph listened and was obedient to the angel's message. How could he fathom this unspeakable mystery? How could it be that God would take on human flesh and enter into our world to save us all from our sins? Like Mary, he listened. He believed. What seemed like a disaster became a blessing of great joy. God removed the momentary shame Joseph suffered and gave him the honor of leading his bride into his family. God asked him to protect and guide this precious Holy Family in order that the divine plan might be fulfilled.

For Prayer

*O Glorious St. Joseph,
in your time of distress and confusion,
you listened to God's message,
through the voice of an angel in your dream.
You opened your heart to God's direction
and followed the dream God had for you.
Help us to listen for God's voice speaking to us in
deep and personal movements within our being.
Teach us to trust the One who created us
and who leads us in God's way.*

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