



Mother Mary is indeed the beautiful instrument chosen by God, to lead many more to His Love. The Gospel of the Day presents the miraculous incident of the Annunciation of the Good News to Mother Mary.

Mother Mary, at the Annunciation, teaches us many things

### **1. Mother Mary teaches the supreme goodness of obedience**

Heaven had chosen a simple girl, Mary to be the Mother of Jesus, the Savior. When Angel Gabriel was sent to seek Her consent, Mary, after the initial moments of fear, bowed Herself in obedience: "Behold, I am the Handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to Me, according to Your Word" (Lk 1: 38). This obedience to God's Will would turn out to be Her fortress and strength – in moments of uncertainty, loneliness, dread, and agony.

### **2. "Faithfulness, thy true Daughter is Mary!"**

One of the most outstanding qualities to be admired and imitated from our Blessed Mother is "to be faithful". In Mother Mary, we have a person, who remained faithful at all times even when there were dark clouds of unwarranted humiliation looming over her, even when unforeseen difficulties encountered Her during the birth of Jesus, even when she encountered many situations which were not understood by Her, even when life surrounded her with agonizing moments and heartbreaking instances. The "Fiat" at the Annunciation would be lived all through Her life. This act of being "faithful forever" was a result of the constant choices that She made to listen and obey God's Will always.

### **3. Mary was ready to be molded and shaped by God**

When Mary was entrusted with the greatness of the task, She gave Herself readily to the power of God. She didn't hold back anything; She was complete in Her surrender. It is when we offer ourselves wholly and be ready

to be molded and shaped by the Lord, that He can perform wonders through us.

#### **4. Mary held on to Jesus as the Greatest Treasure of Her life**

The greatness and the eminence of Mother Mary came as a result of Her single-minded focus and love: Everything for Jesus and in Jesus. When in the womb, Her sole attention was on Jesus. While in the manger, Her whole care was for Jesus. While in His ministry, Her thoughts were centered on Him. While on the Cross, Her entire self-rested on Him. It is when Jesus becomes the Treasure of our life, that our lives get enshrined in Grace and Holiness

#### **5. Mary is the New Ark of the Covenant, bearing Jesus.**

The Scriptures easily point to the fact that Mother Mary is the New Ark of the Covenant. The ark in the OT traveled to the land of Judah and remained for 3 months (2 Sam: 6:1-11). The Ark in the NT, Mary travels to Judah, to meet Her cousin Elizabeth and remained for 3 months (Lk 1:39, 56). David danced and leaped and shouted before the ark in the OT (2 Sam 6:14). In the NT, John, the babe, leaped and Elizabeth exclaimed with a loud cry before Mary (Lk 1: 41, 43). Inside the ark of the Old Covenant was the manna – the miraculous bread from heaven, the staff of Aaron, the Priest and the tablets of the covenant (Heb 9:4). The NT Ark, Mother Mary had within Her Jesus, the Bread of Life, Jesus, the Eternal Priest and Jesus, the Law-giving Word. As the New Ark of the Covenant, Mother Mary deserves our highest veneration and honor, which will lead us to a greater closeness and intimacy with the One She derives all Her praise – Jesus, Her Son, and our Brother!

May we embrace Mary, the beautiful instrument chosen by God and be led to love the Lord more!

**Life Message:** We should treasure the words of the Gospel and use them often, for example, practicing the Christian custom of saying the Angelus every day and reflecting on the five Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary.

#### **Let us pray:**

Lord give me the grace so that like Mary who brought God to us as Jesus our Savior, may I carry Jesus, your Son, and my brother and bring him to the lives of others around me through love, mercy, forgiveness, and service.

**Jesus, I Trust In You**