

Today is the Feast of the Annunciation. It is the Archangel Gabriel who announces to Mary that she will have a child. And it is not just an announcement, of an angel flying by and oh, yes; You too will have a baby. For after the angel has spoken, Mary has some objections; I've never slept with a man, how could I be pregnant. Then the angel repeats what he has said and goes further; the Holy Spirit will come upon you and what you carry in you will be the Son of God. That is not just an announcement, that is the Proclamation that God will have His Son born on earth. "You have found favor with God" it says, meaning; finally God the Father has someone through whom His Son can be born. Someone pure enough to carry the Christ within without being consumed. For Mary, that figure at the edge of the Old and New Testaments, was born after the fervent prayer of her parents and after a great sacrifice of those parents, namely the promise that they would return the child to God, and thus she grew up in the Temple. There she had learned to live a pure life, there she had also learned obedience. This enabled her to carry the Christ within herself. Anybody else would have been consumed as if by fire. Her purity of heart allowed the Christ to be born in her, Christ was brought into this world, God was brought into the material world.

Mary is also equated with the Church, because the Church on earth, those are the people who carry Christ within them. She is called the new Eve, for as Eve said; my will be done, thus said Mary; Thy will be done. And with that, she brings God into this world.

Mary is the link between the Creator and creation, between us and God the Father. That link is called; a pure heart, a heart that only wants God, and "Thy will be done". Through "Thy will be done" the Holy Spirit comes into her and Christ is born in her.

In this Mary is not only our example but she is the prototype of the Christian. For in us also the Christ must be born. That is only possible with a pure heart, a heart that only wants God, there God can be born. Mary had the temple, we have the Church, which teaches us how to acquire a pure heart, a heart that only wants God, and the Church teaches us how to acquire obedience. As a shining example we have Saint Porphyrios. When asked what he loved most of the Holy Mount Athos, he said first; Oh, the nature, the flowers, the birds, the air, but then; oh, the obedience, how I loved it. In his words one can sense the liberation from his own will, from his opinions, from his preferences, and that enabled him to carry Christ within himself. The Mother of God was his example.

Holy Mother of God, pray to Christ God that we too may attain that purity of heart and that obedience so that Christ may be born in us.