

DAY 3**Our Mother in Faith**

Yesterday, we learned that Abraham is our father in faith — but there's a "greater than Abraham" here. Of course, I'm talking about Mary, our mother in faith. After all, she's the greatest example of faith, its "perfect embodiment,"¹⁰ and its "purest realization." And while Jesus, as true God, is the object of our faith (the one we believe in), Mary is the supreme model of faith (the one who best shows us what it means to believe in God).

So, what about Mary's faith? What does she show us about believing in God? Well, let me begin to answer that by first telling you an amazing secret: According to St. John Paul II, there's "a kind of 'key' which unlocks for us the innermost reality of Mary."¹² Imagine that. According to the greatest pope of the 20th century, there's a secret that reveals the mystery of Mary!

Alright, so do you want to know what it is? Let me explain.

The great key, the great secret, has to do with Mary's faith, because faith gets to her deepest reality. And while we find this key in words spoken about Mary at the time of the Visitation, the words themselves refer back to her response to the angel at the Annunciation. Let's begin by reviewing that scene: In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most-High; and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no husband?" And the angel said to her, "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, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her (Lk 1:26-38).

Of course, we know the rest of the story. After the angel departs, Mary goes in haste to visit her cousin, St. Elizabeth (the Visitation), and when Elizabeth hears Mary's greeting, the child in her womb leaps for joy. But then, Elizabeth gives the whole world a key to Mary's innermost reality. "Filled with the Holy Spirit" and "with a loud cry," she proclaims two blessings, the last of which is the great key. Here it is: "Blessed is she who believed that what was spoken to her by the Lord would be fulfilled" (Lk 1:45).

Now, according to St. John Paul II, that final blessing has a "fundamental importance." Why? Because its words reveal the secret of Mary's faith, which is this: She believed that what the Lord had spoken to her at the Annunciation would be fulfilled. And so, her faith is like that of Abraham, as John Paul points out:

Just as Abraham "in hope believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations" (Rom 4:18), so Mary, at the Annunciation, having professed her virginity

("How shall this be, since I have no husband?") believed that through the power of the Most-High, by the power of the Holy Spirit, she would become the Mother of God's Son in accordance with the angel's revelation: "The child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God" (Lk 1:35).

So, if we want to understand the mystery of Mary, we should reflect on the fact that she believed God's Word, even when it seemed impossible. She hoped against hope, believing that, as the angel said, "with God nothing will be impossible."

Today's Prayer:

Come, Holy Spirit, fire of mercy.

Help me to believe that with God

nothing will be impossible.

From the Virgin Mary in the Kingdom of the Divine Will:

"...have courage and trust in Me. Distrust is of the cowardly, and of those who are not really committed to obtaining victory, and therefore they are always without weapons; and without weapons one cannot win, and is always inconstant and vacillating in doing good.

They made known to Me that it was Their Will for Me to leave the Temple; first, to unite Myself in bond of marriage, according to the custom of those times, to a holy man called Joseph; and to withdraw together with him to live in the house of Nazareth.

My child, in this step of my life, in appearance it seemed that God wanted to put Me in a trial.

Yet, my child, that which in appearance seemed to be a trial and as though strange for the sanctity of my life, God used in an admirable way in order to fulfill His designs, and to grant Me the grace which I so much longed for – that is, the descent of the Word upon earth. God gave Me the safeguard, the defense, the help, so that no one could talk about Me – about my honesty. Saint Joseph was to be the cooperator, the tutor, who was to take care of that bit of the human which We needed; as well as the shadow of the Celestial Paternity, in which our little Celestial Family on earth was to be formed.

So, in spite of my surprise, immediately I said: "Fiat", knowing that the Divine Will would not harm Me, or prejudice my sanctity.