

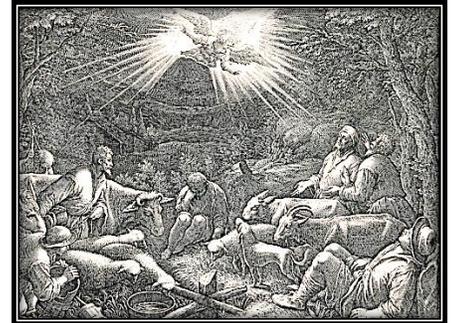


THE ALMIGHTY HAS DONE GREAT THINGS FOR US WHAT GREAT THINGS HAVE WE DONE FOR HIM?

“Mary kept all these things, reflecting upon them in her (Immaculate) Heart.” That is what Mass-goers heard on the first of January; a Holy Day that may not always oblige us to go to Mass, but a Holy Day (like every day) that obliges us to be holy. And that is worth reflecting upon in our hearts.

Yes we can and should, in union with Mary, keep calling to mind and bringing into our hearts the Christmas Message as the shepherds heard it straight from the angel’s mouth (and proclaimed it):

“Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a Saviour has been born for you Who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests.” (Saint Luke II:8-14)



Yes we can, and should keep calling to mind and bringing into our hearts as Mary did, that angelic-moment of **annunciation** nine months before, when “*the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and said ...:*

... Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of David His father, and He will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.” But Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?” And the angel said to her in reply, “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,

Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God.” (Saint Luke I:26-38)

Yes, we can and should keep calling to mind and bringing to our hearts as Mary did that moment of **visitation** when “*during those days Mary (in shepherd-like fashion) ...:*

... set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, “Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the Fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.” (Saint Luke I:39-45)



Yes we can and should keep calling to mind and bringing to our hearts (in union with Mary) all the great things that the Almighty has done for us, but before we say goodbye to Christmas 2017, we should call to mind and bring to our hearts: *what great things have we done for the Almighty?*