



Archdiocese of San Antonio

Most Reverend Gustavo García-Siller



Homily – Marian Community of Reconciliation

April 4, 2016

During a very dark time during the reign of King Ahaz of Jerusalem, God sent the prophet Isaiah to assure the king of God's presence and protection. The king was fearful. Isaiah pronounced God's promise: a son would be born and named Immanuel -- God is with us. We are not told of Ahaz's response. Did he believe God?

Mary was at home in Nazareth of Galilee when God sent the angel Gabriel to tell her that she would bear a son whom she was to name Jesus – God saves. Mary says “Yes” to God despite the fact that she was not yet married. The Letter to the Hebrews puts the words of Psalm 40 on Jesus' lips: “Behold, I come to do your will, O God.” These passages may seem to suggest that believing in God's word and saying “yes” to his will is fairly easy.

But we need to interpret the Annunciation in light of all of Scripture, going back all the way to creation and the fall of the man and woman in the garden. Pope Francis has said that: “When

everything seemed lost that afternoon in the Garden of Eden, God the Father put a new heart into that young couple and told them that everything was not lost. . . And when the fullness of time came, God the Father put his heart into it, into humanity, by sending us his Son.” Unlike the man and the woman in Eden, who said no to God by eating of the forbidden fruit, the New Man and the New Woman have said “Yes” to God – at the Annunciation --- but also in the Garden of Gethsemane and while hanging on, and standing at the foot of, the Cross. The Holy Father said that Our Lady “is the woman who says ‘yes,’ a ‘yes’ of surrender to God.” Who do you think, humanly speaking, taught Jesus to say “yes” to the Father -- if not the Son’s Blessed Mother?!

This is the challenge for us today and every day of our lives. To say “Yes” to God’s will for us. “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven” – “yes” to God’s plan for us including the sacrifices and death to self that this may entail.

We are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Marian Community of Reconciliation. You have said “Yes” to God’s call and set off on the mission God has entrusted to you. It is not always easy to stay on the right path. Difficulties and problems, anxieties and fears can tempt us to say “No” or simply to ignore God’s word.

We have the wonderful example of the risen Lord and Our Lady to inspire and enable us to be faithful in always saying “Yes” to God’s will!