

Marianist Faith Sharing Advent and Mary

❖ **Check-in:** Highs and Lows since the last meeting.

❖ **Call to Prayer**

Leader: Mary, as you once did, we hope and long for God to fulfill the promise made to our ancestors. Now in this season of Advent...a time of waiting, we join our longing to yours, for the coming of the Great Son of Justice. We dedicate ourselves to prepare our hearts and our world to welcome Emmanuel, God with Us. Let us pray...

All: May the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit
be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary. Amen

❖ **Reading: Mary Speaks From the Heart**

Leader: The season of Advent gives us an opportunity to journey with Mary as she deals with all the emotions of saying "Yes" to God.

Reader 1: A surprised Mary is afraid: Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor 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"

Reader 2: A perplexed Mary is confused : But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have not known 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... And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age...for nothing will be impossible for God."

Reader 3: An astonished Mary is faithful: Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country where she greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth cried out, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

Reader 4: A joyful Mary is resolved: And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name"

❖ **Reflection and Questions**

1. As you think about the journey of Mary, what words, emotions or images speak to you in your own journey?
2. How have you said "Yes" to God in your life? Was it easy or difficult-- did it involve surprise and fear, confusion, astonishment and faith, joy and resolve?
3. Advent(from the Latin word adventus, meaning "coming") is a season of the Christian church that is a period of waiting and hope. What are some of the joys and challenges of waiting?
4. Happy New Year! Advent is the beginning of the year in the Church's liturgical calendar...a time to look at your life and do some spiritual "cleaning and preparing". What are some "Advent" resolutions for making changes in your life this "new year"?
5. How are you preparing for Christ's coming? Did you have any important family traditions for this season as you prepare for the birth of Jesus?

❖ **Secret Santa**

❖ **Petitions/Our Father/Sign of Peace**

Faith Sharing Leaders:

Reminder:

---Have your group pick names for the Secret Santa(a gift valued at about \$25.00); the gifts will be exchanged at the Christmas Lunch

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