

# The Annunciation and the Angelus

## Sacred Art Activity

Youth will view 24 slides of the Annunciation in about 4 minutes as a song is played with it. Each person will be given a chart so they can keep track of items they are looking for in the slides. They have about 10 seconds a slide to see if the following items are found in the art work:

**Does the angel of bare feet, bent knee or bent over posture?**

**Does the angel have its hand / arm up?**

**Do you see the presence of the Holy Spirit (Light, Dove, etc.)?**

**Does Mary have a posture of openness or reverence?**

**Do you see lilies?**

**Do you see the presence of the Word of God (scripture)?**

They will mark down a mark each time any of the items are found and then at the end the person with the closest numbers win. The percentages will then also be given. There are a few options of how to run the catechesis time.

**Option One** - in large group to ask people to say what they think the significance is for each item in the art, and then more through the lesson picking a few questions to ask.

**Option Two** - give each group an item, one of the five sections below. They go through the section as a small group and then report back in the large group to share with everyone what there group talked about.

**Prayer “The Angelus”** - At the end everyone should be given the Angelus prayer card. This prayer was started by Pope Urban II in 1095, asking Mary’s protection for the crusades. Pope Urban had the bells rung in the morning, noon and in the evening each day. This prayer had been traditional prayed at 6am, Noon and 6pm each day, this has been done faithfully by Catholics for a thousand years and is a great short prayer to get us use to praying throughout the day and most importantly showing reverence and thanksgiving to Our Lord for His Incarnation and devotion to Our Lady for her faith and obedience.

### **The Angel (hand lifted up; bowed in posture)**

*The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary*

Angels appear many times in scriptures. In all appearances it is always the human that kneels, bows to the angel. It is only in this case, the Annunciation, in which we see an angel bowing to a human. The bowed posture of the angel Gabriel indicates that Mary is the favored one, the perfection of the human race. The Angel's hand lifted up shows that the message he brings is the message of God.

**There are many voices in the world today, do you hear His voice? Do you hear His message?**

### **Presence of the Holy Spirit**

*And she conceived of the Holy Spirit*

### **Lumen Gentium 56**

"The holy Fathers see her as used by God not merely in a passive way, but as freely cooperating in the work of human salvation through faith and obedience. For, as St. Irenaeus says, she 'being obedient, became the cause of salvation for herself and for the whole human race'".

**Am I the cause of salvation for others? Do I passively or actively cooperate? Mary had right away obedience, obedience without hesitation. What causes us to hesitate in our obedience?**

### **Mary's posture of openness / acceptance**

*Behold the Handmaid of the Lord*

### **Lumen Gentium 56**

"The Father of mercies willed that the Incarnation should be preceded by the acceptance of her who was predestined by the acceptance of her who was predestined to be the mother of his Son, so that just as a woman contributed to death, so also a woman should contribute to life"

### **Catechism of the Catholic Church 511**

"The Virgin Mary 'cooperated through free faith and obedience in human salvation' (LG 56). She uttered her yes 'in the name of all human nature' (St. Thomas Aquinas). By her obedience she became the new Eve, mother of the living.

By her conduct, Mary reminds each of us of our serious responsibility to accept God's plan for our lives. We received our fallen human nature from Eve, she is our mother, the mother of the living. If Eve was our only mother, then we would have no hope, no redemption, no Grace. As the fall of humanity came through Eve, the rise to divinity came through Mary. It is Mary who is our mother, who gives us the fruit of her womb, Jesus. Our human nature can now share in the divine nature. As children of Eve, we were doomed to say no, as our mother Eve said no. As children of Mary, we share in the Grace to say yes, as Mary said yes.

We might not always understand why we are being obedient, but we must trust, in the end it is good for us. When MLB player, Ubaldo Jimenez turned 16 years old, the New York Mets offered him \$20,000 to sign. His father, Ubaldo Sr., drove a city bus. His mother, Ramona, worked as a nurse. In the impoverished Dominican Republic, this was life-changing money, the

sort nobody turns down. "My parents said no," Jimenez said. "They didn't want me to sign until I finished high school. I always respected my parents, and I knew it was for my own good, so I didn't sign. I always figured I was going to be a doctor anyway." Today, the Colorado Rockies hurler throws a baseball harder than every other starter in the major leagues.

**Do we have to understand something in order to accept it? Can you believe in something without understanding it? Did Mary fully understand the message of the Angel and the holy will of God? Where would we be without Mary's yes? Where are we going to be and where will those God places in our life be without our yes? Give some examples of how your yes to God is a reversal of someone else's no or maybe your previous no.**

**Lilies (Sign of purity, virginity)**

**Catechism of the Catholic Church 506 & 507**

Mary is virgin because her virginity is the sign of her faith "unadulterated by any doubt," and of her undivided gift of herself to God's will. It is her faith that enables her to become the mother of the Savior: "Mary is more blessed because she embraces faith in Christ than because she conceives the flesh of Christ." At once virgin and mother, Mary is the symbol and the most perfect realization of the Church: "the Church indeed...by receiving the word of God in faith becomes herself a mother. By preaching and Baptism she bring forth sons, who are conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the God, to a new and immortal life. She herself is a virgin, who keeps in its entirety and purity the faith she pledged to her spouse."

**What is more important that Mary conceives Christ or that she has faith in Christ?** We are to conceive and give birth to Christ in our life, but how can we do this unless we have first embraced Christ in faith. You can't give what you don't have.

**What causes us to doubt? Doubt in authority, in the Church, in God, etc.**

**The Word**

*Let it be done unto me according to thy word*

*And the Word was made Flesh*

*And dwelt among us.*

**Saint Irenaeus**

"Just as the former – that is Eve – was seduced by the words of an angel so that she turned away from God by disobeying his word, so the latter – Mary – received the good news from an angel's announcement in such a way as to give birth to God by obeying his word. And as the former was seduced so that she disobeyed his word, the latter let herself be convinced to obey God, and so the Virgin Mary became the advocate of the virgin Eve. As the human race was subjected to death by a virgin, it was liberated by a virgin; a virgin's disobedience was thus counterbalanced by a virgin's obedience.

The reverse of AVE is EVA, the name EVE. Mary is the complete reversal. Eve at the fruit of sin, Mary brings us the fruit of her womb Jesus.

**Luke 11:28 – We are blessed, if we, like Mary hear the word of God and observe it**

While he was speaking, a woman from the crowd called out and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that carried you and the breasts at which you nursed." He replied, "Rather, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it."

God does not just give us His word, but His Flesh. People can give us their word but their word means nothing unless it is acted out. Actions speak louder than words. We must hear and know the word before we can observe the word. Before the word can be flesh in our life, we must say, "Let it be". What we hear, what we see, we imitate and those things can become our actions. Words, whether good or bad, become actions. There is a phrase that says, "Garbage in garbage out."

**Where do we see or hear the "good news" in our life? How can we make scripture reading, spiritual reading and prayer a part of our life?**

<b>Common Elements of Pictures</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Bare feet / Bent Knee posture of Angel</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>54%</b>
<b>Angel with hand up</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>63%</b>
<b>Presence of the Holy Spirit</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>54%</b>
<b>Mary's posture (openess / reverence)</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>83%</b>
<b>Presence of Lillies</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>58%</b>
<b>Presence of the Word (Bible)</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>67%</b>
<p><b>Fold Paper Here</b></p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>(Look at side with numbers, after the slide show)</b></p>		
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