

Daily Mass Homily

23 March 2020

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD sol.

“The Lord said, as he entered the world: Behold, I come to do your will, O God.”

Reading 1: Isaiah 7:10-14, 8:10

Psalm 40: **Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.**

Reading 2: Hebrews 10:4-10

Gospel: Luke 1: 26-38

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Every year at the solemnity of the Annunciation, I knew that I was getting close to the end of the academic year at the seminary. As the year was wrapping up, there were two important dinners that were held at this time.

The first dinner was the Annunciation Dinner that was held in honor of the solemnity of the Annunciation at which a number of the men and faculty received awards through nomination from their peers. While both of these dinners required a lot of additional work, after the dinners were completed, it meant that school was going to be finished in just a couple of weeks and it would be time to return home and to begin our summer assignments. I never had far to go to get home.

The Appreciation Dinner, where our ministry supervisors and spiritual directors and the students gather for dinner was an opportunity for the students to offer their gratitude to the supervisors and spiritual directors for their guidance and direction through the past year.

These dinners were signs that another academic year was ending and with that a recommendation to advance another step onward toward priestly ordination. I looked at this as an opportunity to say yes. To say yes to God and the call that was being made to continue toward priestly ordination.

We all have times in our lives in which there is a sign that is being given to us. This sign, or signal if you will, always brings with it a request from God. There is something that he wants us to do, a task, maybe something small or maybe a much larger undertaking. God might be asking us to convert a certain aspect of our lives and to come back to him. These questions come with a request for us to follow and say yes or once again say no to this invitation that is coming to us.

On this solemnity of the Annunciation we once again encounter Mary as the Archangel Gabriel comes to her saying that she is going to be with child and that she is going to name him Jesus. She could say yes or no. We know that she says yes. We celebrated the birth of Jesus not that long ago, so we know beyond a doubt that she says yes, because God is with us! But what if she would have said no. How would the world be different? How would our lives be different?

This year we have been given a very clear sign from God. Now, I am not saying that he set these circumstance in place where we are all now being asked to stay in our homes and everything is closed around us, but God CAN

certainly use this opportunity to call our attention to our lives and how we are living. What are you being asked to do? What might God be asking for you to change during this Lent that none of us is ever going to forget? Let us call upon the strength of our Blessed Mother Mary to pray that we would have the courage to say yes to the Lord.