

Ascension of the Lord
May 12, 2024
Year of the Most Holy Eucharist
Reflection #20

“And in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God into a city of Galilee, called Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel being come in, said unto her: Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.” (Luke 1:26-28)

I believe most of us are familiar with the saying of how even a blind hog finds the occasional acorn. Today, you are witnesses to the fulfillment of that saying. I had decided to dedicate last year to a study on our Catholic teachings concerning the Virgin Mary, Mother of God. I had no idea last year's study on the Blessed Virgin Mary would serve to offer a foundation for our study of the Eucharist this year. Unlike the hog who was actively searching until he found the acorn, I admit, this acorn had already fallen into my lap and only realized that this week.

For the past few weeks we have centered our attention on, first, the Tent of Meeting in the wilderness which prefigured the Temple of God constructed under King Solomon. We had recalled how it was God who had detailed what He wanted in the Tent when we studied the Book of Exodus. He specified the items to be used for His praise (the act of worship—Religion). This detail was carried over into the construction of the Temple in Jerusalem. Furthermore, it was accentuated by King David, the artist, with the additional display of precious metals, stones and other items he had collected for use. It was King Solomon who wisely understood his task was to offer only the best to God for He is deserving of only our best. Now, let us pose a question to ourselves: this desire to give the best, was this something “discovered” by Solomon or was it always there, present from the beginning?

The acorn of my “discovery” is this—this desire to give the best was always there and we have seen that on full display in the Old Testament. Remember, in the beginning when God created, He provided Adam and Eve with everything perfect to fulfill their needs. Their souls were endowed with all of the traits necessary to provide for a harmonious union between God, man and creation. We recalled how mankind faltered in the Garden and continued long afterward. God would choose to offer mankind a fresh opportunity by choosing to bless one people, through Abraham, as the forerunners of a new covenant relationship. He would instruct His people in the right and proper worship of Him going so far as to detail those necessary instructions through the hand of Moses. His servant King David, an artist inspired by The Artist, continued this movement through the addition of music and poetry in the Divine Liturgy. King Solomon, in this great symphony of praise, would seek the most skilled laborers to elevate our worship with the best material objects possible. All of this leads us to understand; this is only a reflection of what He is going to do. God the Architect, Artist, Craftsman, whatever title we could ever imagine for Him, is going to profoundly deepen the Covenant Bond between Himself and us by personally constructing a new, perfect, glorious Temple for His most Beloved Son. It will be a Temple not made by human hands, but constructed through His Spirit of Love, the Holy

Spirit. This new Temple which houses His Divine Son is the womb of the Blessed Virgin. His greatest creation given to His Son is Mary, His Mother.

And, when God constructs something, especially something for His Son, do you think for one instance He is not going to use the very best of what He can use? Mary, the new Ark, the new Temple, whose body will shelter and feed God's Most Holy Son, MUST, I repeat, MUST BE FREE from any defilement, any stain of sin, anything that could in anyway diminish the glory of the Son of God. Therefore, just as He did in the desert with the Tent of Meeting, He, in the Person of the Spirit, descends and over shadows Mary. He speaks His Word into her womb where He, the Son, will receive His flesh. The same Divine Flesh which will be offered for all upon the cross as the ultimate, perfect Divine Sacrifice to His Father. For all of this to be fulfilled, Mary must be the very best, or as defined by our Catholic Faith, the Immaculate Conception.