

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Weekday Mass – Thursday, March 25, 2021
Cycle B

We read the Gospel passage of today several times during the year – at the Solemnities of the Annunciation and the Immaculate Conception, during the Octave before Christmas, and on the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

The words of Gabriel to Mary begin with: “Hail full of grace!” or “Rejoice, O highly favored daughter!” Mary was highly favored because she would be the Mother of Jesus, the Son of the Most High, who will rule forever. The singular grace given to Mary was on account of Jesus. The scene that began with a grand salutation ends with a simple and humble response of obedience from Mary: “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord, may it be done to me according to your Word.”

The call of Mary to be the Mother of God and therefore, the privileges that come with it, are unique and singular, given only to her. That was the mission that the Father entrusted to her. Her initial apprehension did not deter her positive response to God’s invitation sent through the angel. She willingly accepted His Word.

God has called each one of us for a specific mission that may not be as earthshaking or history-changing as the one given to Mary. But like her, God invites all of us to cooperate with His plans. As Mary was given the gifts and privileges that accompanied her vocation, we, too, are given the graces that we need in our yes to God’s invitation. May our response be like that of Mary – simple, humble, and obedient, as we say, “May it be done to me according to your Word.”

Amen