

Under the Sign of the Mother



“Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” We can picture you, little Virgin of Zion, bent over your Child in the silence of the night. He questions your soul—that divine creature whom you received as a gift so as to give

him in your turn to humanity. After your yes to the angel, strange things began to happen to you (not that an angelic visitation was a normal occurrence, but apart from that...). You became pregnant, while remaining a virgin, and your beloved Joseph did not repudiate you but instead welcomed you as his spouse, just as if the situation were perfectly normal. This was followed by your visit to Elizabeth, marked by two wombs dancing with joy.... And now some poor shepherds have arrived in the dead of night, guided by a host of angels, who are saying amazing things about your child.

Be brave, little Mother of the Savior. The strange happenings in your life are just beginning. Their meaning will be revealed little by little. You too must make the exhilarating but exhausting journey of faith, even though you are the Mother of every human being and were conceived without the stain of sin. You will be enlightened step by step, by means of your many *yeses*, especially the last and hardest one, when your Jesus, from the cross, gave John to you as your son, and each one of us along with him. It is there that you will come to understand the great work God has reserved for you in the story of salvation: that of being the advocate, helper, intercessor and mediatrix of grace for all human beings, including me....

The new year opens under the sign of the Mother of God. To her—the first fruit of all human beings redeemed from sin through the work of her blessed Son, may he be praised through the ages—we entrust the new time that begins today: a time that will be forever recorded in the great book of history. Whether it is a time of blessing or curses depends to some degree on us—on our own “*yeses*” and “*no’s*.”

Prayer

In the silence of the night
it is your silence,
little Virgin of Zion,
that echoes most loudly.
A silence brimming over with your yes,
which blazed the trail
for the yes of your Son,
may he be blessed through the ages.
May our yes be a sign of blessing
for the year to come,
under your sign, Mary;
under the sign of our Mother.
Amen.

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