

Fourth  
Sunday  
of Advent  
2020

Lk.  
1:26-38

# Waiting for the **UNEXPECTED**



By Cornelia Rota

With the angel's announcement to Mary, something unprecedented takes place: the time of *religion* ends and the time of *faith* begins. Human beings, who have always been intent on reaching the sky, are now visited by it.

Mary is the image of human expectation: she creates within herself a space in which everything can come to fruition.

This creation of interior space is the profound meaning of her virginity: Mary is a virgin because she has *emptied herself* through death to self, to self-centeredness, to non-action, aware that the maximum can be accomplished when action finally comes to a halt.

Mary is the *disciple* who teaches a profound truth common to every spirituality, namely: *to expect nothing but the unexpected*. As long as we are waiting for what *we believe we already know*, we see only phantoms. Waiting must be empty, free, not dictated by demands or spoiled by desires, but only grateful for what we want to attain.

Yes, waiting without knowing what is coming is open to unpredictability. I am not waiting for what I want but for what I perceive as good for me. If travelers expect to find things they think they already know, then they would never experience the joy of discovery. They would simply be visiting places about which they have preconceived ideas. And explorers would cease to exist.

*Taken from the homilies of Fr. Paolo Scquizzato*

*I will sing forever  
the promises of the Lord.*

Psalm 89:2