



**2015**  
YEAR OF THE HOSPITALLER VOCATION

“THE CALL TO  
HOLINESS”

Prayer of the month  
**October 2015**

## 1.- Introduction

Mary was troubled when the Angel Gabriel appeared to her and made the announcement that she would be the mother of God. Despite being unclear as to what the Angel meant by the greeting and the many implications that his message would have in her life, she nevertheless said ‘yes’ to God in total abandonment to his will. Our vocation to hospitality is a call to have the courage to say ‘yes’ to God especially in those moments where we are asked to go out of our comfort zones in favour of those who seek our care and support.

## 2.- Hymn: “MAGNIFICAT by David Haas”

**Refrain:** All that I am sings of the God who brings new life to birth in me.

My spirit soars on the wings of my Lord.

1. My soul gives glory to the Lord, rejoicing in my saving God,  
who looks upon me in my state, and all the world will call me blest;  
For God works marvels in my sight, and holy, holy is God's name.
2. God's mercy is from age to age, on those who follow in fear;  
Whose arm is power and strength, and scatters all the proud of heart;  
Who casts the mighty from their thrones and raises up the lowly ones!
3. God fills the starving with good things, the rich are left with empty hands;  
Protecting all the faithful ones, remembering Israel with mercy,  
the promise known to those before and to their children for ever!

## 3.- Psalms: (Taken from “Your Sorrow Is My Sorrow” by Joyce Rupp)

Mary, you have been there before me.

You have been dismayed and shocked by terrible, unwanted news.

You have known fear, sadness, and worry about the future

You have had to quiet the heart aching distress within you.

**You did not give hope.**

**You did not drown in a pool of self-pity.**

**You did not let disappointment and anger destroy your ability to love.**

**You placed your trust in God.**

Woman of compassion, Mother of sorrows,

I draw inspiration from your journey.

I too, can move through the pain of my present situation.

Your faith and courage lead me to my own.

## 4.- Bible Reading:

*In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favoured one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."*

*And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"*

*And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born[d] will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant[e] of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.*

Lk 1, 26-38

## 5.- Reflection

Mary's fiat was the beginning of the unfolding of the God's plan for His people. Mary's yes was not just an ordinary response because she said yes to an invitation that seemed too vague to understand. The first difficulty was the appearance of an angel which was very rare even at the time the Prophet Samuel was called (1 Samuel 3:1-10). Samuel was called at a time where "there was no frequent vision." Imagine the big gap between the times of the Prophet Samuel to that of Mary. The second difficult was the fact that Mary was to carry God's son as a virgin and was betrothed to Joseph. It would be a scandal to become in Mary's time to become pregnant outside marriage. All these circumstances are enough for a young girl of 14 years to say no but Mary said yes because of her faith in the power of the Most High.

At times we find ourselves in situations where commitment is hard because of the circumstances that surround our decision to continue on in sharing the hospitality of God to others. Mary can be our model in our fiat to God. May we, like Mary, receive the grace of faith from the One who calls us to life of service to others.

## 6.- Prayer of the faithful:

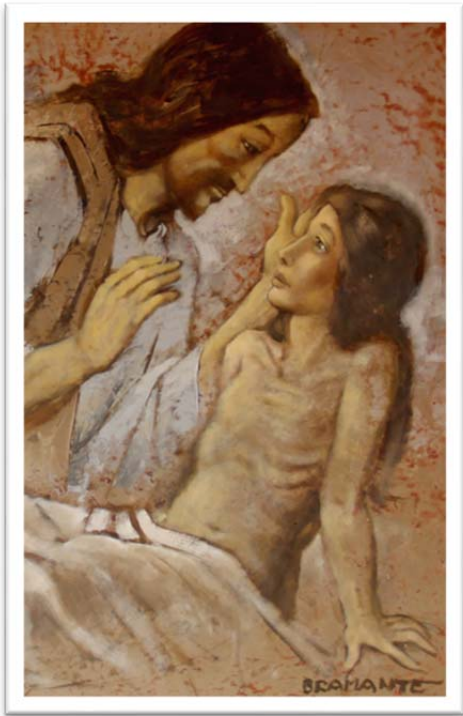
For every petition, let our response be:

**Mary, Queen of hospitality, intercede for us.**

- That like Mary, we may always have the courage to say 'yes' to God especially when the circumstances are trying and difficult to understand. (Response)
- That like Mary, we may be strong in bearing the pains of others in the same manner that she bore the suffering of her son. (Response)
- That like Mary, we may provide comfort and companionship to those who are lonely and are experiencing great difficulties in life. (Response)
- That like Mary, we may always be willing to go out of our way for the sake of attending to those who suffer and are in distress. (Response)
- In the silence of our hearts, let us pray for our own personal intentions. (Response)

## 7.- Pater noster.

## 8.- Final prayer



### **ORACIÓN POR LAS VOCACIONES HOSPITALARIAS**

Lord Jesus, you who passed through the world doing good and healing,  
And sent your disciples to proclaim the Kingdom of God,  
With words of peace on your lips,  
Offering healing and life:  
We ask that your call to Hospitality  
Continue to meet with acceptance in our world  
So that the sick may be healed in your name  
And the Good News announced to the poor,  
And all those who suffer  
May experience your tenderness  
And the mercy of God our Father.

Amen