

Mary descends into the nights of world

Let's continue our journey in the furrows of two centenarians (Fatima and the Militia of the Immaculata) with a reflection on **Mary's Immaculate Heart**.

The annunciation to Mary is an evangelizing for her and for all of us.

*"In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin...And coming to her, he said: "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." ...How can this be since I have no relations with a man?" ...The holy Spirit will come upon you." ...Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord."*⁴

"And coming to her", in an ordinary day, in an obscure town, Nazareth⁵ in a hovel on the outskirts of the town, to a normal young woman a little more than twelve years old. **God manifests himself to Mary, differently from Zechariah⁶, not with visions, but bursting into her house, into her life.**

"Behold, may it be done to me..." "May it be done" is an optative form (*ghenoito*) of the Greek verb and indicates an intense desire; this means that **Mary pronounced her yes with her whole heart**, she becomes a womb for the Son of God, teaching us that true devotion is to become pregnant of God, bearers of life.

"Mary pregnant of God, in journey on the mountains of Judea, is the most powerful image that the Gospel gives us of the meaning and the end of our life. It is a marvelous metaphor. Being pregnant with God, pregnant with light, means living in His presence. I don't have to always think about God, he is already inside of me, as a son inside the mother" (Marina Marcolini). And Meister Eckhart writes that "All are called to become mothers of God, because God always needs to come into the world."

Therefore, we see the first apparition of Mary in the Gospel

When she appears again, she does so only to reopen the Gospel that we obstinately and stubbornly seek to close. Benedict XVI⁷ will say: "The Virgin Mary came from Heaven to remind us about truths of the Gospel that make for humanity, cold of love and without hope in salvation, a fount of hope."

Mary, therefore, leans over humanity to help it. At this point, we enter on tiptoe, together with Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger⁸ in the heart of the message of Fatima: "(translation)"⁹

God has placed his heart in Mary.

Cardinal Ratzinger, in a subsequent passage, has the same thought. “(translation)”¹⁰

What happened at Fatima that May 13, 1917 changed history, showed each one of us the road to walk to find hope once again, that same happening that is reason and fount of hope through Mary’s extraordinary promise: “*In the end my Immaculate heart will triumph!*”.

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¹ Cfr. *The unveiled Secret*, the Message of Fatima, congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, pgs 36-37.

² *Ivi* p. 34-35.

³ *Novissima Verba*, Lisieux 1926, pgs. 154-158.

⁴ Lk1: 26-38.

⁵ Cfr. Jn 1:46

⁶ Lk 1:11

⁷ Speech of the Holy Father. Lisbon International Airport, May 11 2010.

⁸ Prefect of the Congregation for the doctrine of the faith (1981-2005).

⁹ *The Message of Fatima*, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, pg. 55.

¹⁰ *Ibidem*, pg. 63