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FAITH:

CHANNEL OF PRESENCE

By

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In the foresighted
arrangement and governance of
things, it is provided that
throughout the ages of the
world there shall be instruc-
tion available to anyone who
wants it. If you want the
truth, it shall be announced
to you just as inevitably as
it was announced to the Virgin
Mary.

These events that
took place in history are not

static in history; they are not incidents that took place and are then over and done with.

In time, an eternal action is continuous because the Word is eternal, and this conception of the Word is never discontinued. It is an eternal action, and it comes to you in the form of an announcement to your intellect--the announcement of the Word of Truth--and the announcement itself is the transmission of truth.

The Angel Gabriel said to the Virgin, "The Lord is with thee." We are told by tradition that the announcement came at midnight. It was not at the dawn, it was not at noonday, but it was exactly at midnight; and that signifies the very darkest time of the twenty-four hours! Always, our darkest hour is the point of break-through.

Saint Thomas Aquinas has presented an interrogation regarding the Annunciation. The

question is:

*Whether it was necessary to announce to the blessed Virgin that which was to be done in her?

The question that is raised here is not a question about that one particular event; it is a question that pertains to you, presenting yourself as a candidate for instruction. Having wiped your mind clean of all preconceived ideas, you offer up your virgin mind; and the announcement comes, "The Lord is with thee."

Do you think the truth has to invite your consent? Not at all; for the Spirit of Truth can do anything that it wishes. But the wonderful thing about the truth is that it works in an orderly, sweet, and becoming manner. Your mind, which is the highest power of your soul, is offered up to this orderly Spirit of Truth.

So, to the question

Whether it was necessary to announce to the blessed Virgin that which was to be done in her?

Saint Thomas Aquinas answers:

*It was reasonable...

Nothing is done out of reason.
To get out of reason is to get
out of order. There is a wonderful rationality in every
action of Truth; it is super-
rationality, actually.

*It was reasonable that
it should be announced to
the blessed Virgin that
she was to conceive Christ.
First, in order to maintain
a becoming order in
the union of the Son of
God with the Virgin--

A becoming order! First you
have instruction presented to

you, announced to your mind and to your heart. You accept, give your fiat to it before you begin to have it in your experience. It works from the inside out.

First, in order to maintain a becoming order in the union of the Son of God with the Virgin--namely, that she should be informed in mind concerning Him, before conceiving Him in the flesh.

This "first" is not a matter of time; there is no lapse of time, but it is of the order of importance. It was important first that she should open her mind

and heart to Him, that her faith should encircle Him before her flesh conceived Him. This is the order.

This is the order of instruction. You have the announcement of truth given to you, and then you begin to awaken to the fact of that truth in your life; but first of all it comes to you to be accepted in the order of faith. It was reasonable that she should be informed in mind concerning Him before conceiving

Him in the flesh.

Thus Augustine says:
Mary is more blessed in
receiving the faith of
Christ...

Do you know what the great
test of faith is? It is when
you feel the earth shake under
you! When you feel the things
that you have depended upon for
security, slipping away from
you! That is the test of
faith; that is when you are
walking in midnight darkness.

A saint about to be mar-
tyred said to the Divine Child,

"Let me see what it will be like when I am in Heaven with you!"

The Child smiled and answered, "Where then would be thy faith?"

If you have this light of faith in you, you will not stumble in any darkness. It is the day of the Lord at any time! You, yourself, have the light. You may not feel, for the moment, that you have done anything at all to your life in accepting the announcement of truth by your faith. Although it is announced

to you that the Lord is with you, as far as your feeling goes, you may not be able to see it as yet. But if you have accepted it, have given your fiat in your heart, then you are more blessed because that is where the conception takes place--in your heart, in your mind--and from there it permeates your flesh. If you could understand it with your mind, it would not be a miracle.

It is said in another way:
The entrance to the blood stream

is at the point of doctrine--
hearing the Word of Truth.

We are not setting the mind
up as being the only channel,
but we are saying that it is the
highest power of the soul; and
when you have conceived, when
you have received this Word in
your faith and in your heart,
you will awaken to the fact that
it is in your flesh also.

Having received instruc-
tion, the announcement, "The
Lord is with you," you begin to

awaken. You don't have to do anything about it; it is not a method, it's a message! The MESSAGE is the thing, because the Word of Truth IS the Lord; and if you have accepted the Word of Truth, you have accepted the Son of God. There is no block that can stand in the way of your experience of it.

Mary is more blessed in receiving the faith of Christ, than in conceiving the flesh of Christ;

The first blessing, in the proper order, was her acceptance of Truth even though she couldn't see how conceiving Truth was possible; then in the natural order of things came the conceiving of this Truth in her flesh.

Her nearness as a Mother would have been of no profit to Mary, had she not borne Christ in her heart after a more blessed manner than in her flesh.

If she had not first (most importantly) had Him in her mind,

she could have had Him in her flesh and never have known anything about it.

That is exactly what has happened to the world. He is here, and you know nothing about Him until your faith expands to the place where you can consent to the announcement.

When you have accepted truth by faith, you have accepted the conception.

Faith is a light which enables you to walk in the darkest

places carrying with you your own light so that you will not stumble, even though the earth itself may seem to give way beneath you; still, because you have the Lord with you, you are not afraid, even of the valley of the shadow of death; because you can make the announcement, with authority, "Thou art with me."

He leads us in strange and incomprehensible ways. We cannot see the pattern of our

lives as day by day we sit at the loom of life; we are too close, and we are looking at the pattern from the seamy side. Because you see only the tangled underside, your life may look to you like a terrible jumble; and yet, right there in that jumble is the perfect ordering of everything that has to do with you.

You are not asked to provide faith of your own; you are invited to "Have the faith of God," to make the faith of God your

own by accepting His Word as announced in instruction. Faith is not independent; it must be faith IN something; and the only something there is, is God. The conception of The Word is immediate availability of everything.

The Lord had something to say about faith, you know. After the "Doubting Thomas," the Apostle, had verified the Lord as the resurrected Lord, Jesus' blessing was:

...blessed is he who has not seen, and has believed.

We are given many aids to faith, but our faith does not rest in these nor become so attached to them as to be dependent upon them. Faith rests on the Word of God alone, as a message to be believed and trusted in even if all else fails--most of all when all else fails! It's most real exercise is not within the walls of a church, nor in the midst of a

believing people, but in the
desert surroundings in the
artificial, secular world.

When we have accepted
Truth with faith, we have the
profit; and we become, in our-
selves, the very mother of
this Word of Truth, bringing
it to fulfillment.

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* The "Summa Theologica" of
Saint Thomas Aquinas,
Volume 16, pages 41, 42

