

Stewardship Messages for Advent 2017

Option 1 messages come from the International Catholic Stewardship Council

Option 2 messages come from Dr. Jerry Martinez

December 23/24, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Advent

“Hail full of grace! The Lord is with you.” (Luke 1:28)

In today’s Gospel reading we hear proclaimed the story of the Annunciation, when the angel of the Lord announced to Mary that she would give birth to Christ through the intercession of the Holy Spirit. Mary allowed God’s messenger to speak to her. She was attentive, not afraid to enter into dialogue, then unconditionally obedient. Mary’s acceptance of this mystery is a stewardship model for us. Good stewards remain open to the inclusion of divine life into the normal course of our daily lives. How open are we to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in our own lives? What might we do this last week of Advent to be more attentive to the Lord?

...OR...

***“Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your word...”*** (Luke 1:26-38)

On the Second Sunday of Advent we noted that “John [the Baptist] was just being John”. He discerned God’s will for him and did it. Now we hear of “Mary just being Mary,” a young teenager in a tiny hamlet on a craggy hilltop in the northern region of Galilee. Mary heard a message from God so amazing she wondered how it could happen. But she realized it was God’s will for her and she consented. There were many details and consequences she could not know, but she said “Yes!” to be the human mother of God incarnate. That was “Mary just being Mary.” That is all God asked of her and that is all God asks of us – to be all that God created us to be. For us, just as for John the Baptist and Mary, we begin by identifying, accepting, and developing all the unique talents, abilities, and gifts God has given to each of us, and then using them to the best of our ability **for ourselves and for others**. Is that not the greatest gift we can give to Jesus when we celebrate his birthday on Christmas? Is our present for Jesus ready?