

Solemnity of the Annunciation

Excerpts from Caryl Chessman and

Mrs. Luigi Guisani (decade 5)

“It is in Our Lady, that God fell in love with humanity. It is upon her that the Dove descended, and the love of God for Humanity culminated in the conception of Christ in the human race. When she surrendered herself to God, there was indeed a miraculous New Heaven and New Earth. The Spirit entered the world—light and wisdom and love, patience, fortitude, joy entered the human heart and mind, and in the sigh of God a springtime of loveliness woke the world.”

Creed

Aspiration: Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit, **pray for us.**

First Decade

Our Lady was at the most fourteen when the angel came to her; perhaps she was younger. The whole world trembled on the word of a child, on a child’s consent. To what was she asked to consent? First of all, to the descent of the Holy Spirit, to surrender her littleness to the Infinite Love, and as a result to become the mother of Christ....The psalmist had hymned Christ’s coming on harps of gold. The prophets had foretold it with burning tongues. But now the loudest telling of His presence on earth was to be the heartbeat within the heartbeat of a child.

(pause for a few moments)

O Blessed Virgin, we ask you for the grace to surrender to the work of the Father, Son and Spirit. We pray that we may discover the quiet, pulsating presence of His Sacred Heart within us.

Aspiration after the decade: Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit, **pray for us.**

Second Decade

Our Lady said yes. She said yes for us all. It was as if the human race were a dark house, without light or air, locked and latched. The wind of the Spirit had beaten on the door, rattled the windows, tapped on the dark glass with the tiny hands of flowers, flung golden seeds against it, even, in hours of storm, lashed it with the boughs of a great tree—the prophecy of the Cross—and yet the Spirit was outside. But one day a girl opened the door, and the little house was swept pure and sweet by the wind. Seas of light swept through it, and the light remained in it; and in that little house, a Child was born and the Child was God. Our Lady said yes for the whole human race. Each one of us must echo that yes for our own lives.

(pause for a few moments)

O Star of the Sea, we ask you to help us open our hearts to the life-changing power of the Spirit. May our houses be swept pure and clean and ready to receive Christ so that we may be vessels of His light and love for a world engulfed in the storms of darkness.

Aspiration after the decade: Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit, **pray for us.**

Third Decade

We are all asked if we will surrender what we are, our humanity, our flesh and blood, to the Holy Spirit and allow Christ to fill the emptiness formed by the particular shape of our life. The surrender that is asked of us includes complete and absolute trust; it must be like Our Lady's surrender, without condition and without reservation. What we shall be asked to give is our flesh and blood, our daily life—our thoughts, our service to one another, our affection and loves, our words, our intellect, our waking, working, and sleeping, our ordinary human joys and sorrows—to God.

(pause for a few moments)

O Sweet Mother, we ask you for the grace to give a pure 'yes' to God, without conditions, trusting that His Presence will never fail us.

Aspiration after the decade Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit, **pray for us.**

Fourth Decade

When Our Lady stood up and uttered her fiat to the Angel of God, her words began to make Christ's voice. Those words of consent had already spoken Christ's last words of consent...they were one and the same with His "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit." At that moment, when Our Lady received the love of the Holy Spirit as the wedded love of her soul, she also received her dead son in her arms. The trust, which accepted the utter sweetness of the Infant Jesus between her own hands, also accepted the stiff, unresponsive corpse that her hands embalmed. She trusted God. God asks for extreme courage in love; the Bride of the Spirit must respond with strength like His own strength. Our Lady did this.

(pause for a few moments)

O Mother of Divine Love, help us to be fervent lovers of Christ's Sacred Heart, and mirror your beauty. Give us courage to love, even in difficult moments.

Aspiration after the decade Spouse of the Holy Spirit, **pray for us.**

Fifth Decade

May it come about in us, O Spirit of God, as it did in Mary. The mystery of the Word was made flesh in her, it become part of her flesh and one with her expression. Thus, may the memory of Christ become flesh of our flesh, part of all our actions, counsel for every thought and flame for every affection, and move in us with all our moves, from morning to evening, as we eat and drink, and in all our living and in our dying.

(pause for a moment)

O Blessed Virgin, draw us after you! May we, by the scapular we wear, show to the world that we belong to you! Help us to be fervent Carmelites, devoted to Our Divine Lord, who was made flesh within you. Grant us the grace of contemplation, of deep union with God, and lead us into the silence of Christ's love infinite love. -

Aspiration after the decade Spouse of the Holy Spirit, **pray for us.**

Hail Holy Queen

Litany