

INCARNATION

(12/19/05 Topic of Discussion)
Presented by Fr. Kris Maslowski

Faith is a lifetime journey.

After the opening prayer, the Gospel of Luke chapter 1 vs 26:38 was read, the announcement by the Angel Gabriel to Mary that she was to be the Mother of God.

After reading the scripture, discussion was how this scripture brought to mind the Hail Mary prayer.

No one witnessed this meeting between Mary and the Angel Gabriel. This may have been told/shared by Mary with the Apostles and Disciples. It was a miraculous intervention. There were other interventions by God regarding births such as Sarah and Abraham (Isaac), Zechariah and Elizabeth (John the Baptist); but these were of human nature. Mary conceived by the Holy Spirit and the Word became flesh... the Incarnation. The Gospel of John chapter 1 vs 1 to 14 was read. "...In the beginning was the Word...the Word was with God...the Word was God... The Word became flesh and dwelt among us...". The Word in creation took flesh, that is, Jesus: God and man.

Three Gospels include the narration of the announcement of the birth of Jesus: Matthew, Mark and Luke. John's Gospel states that the Word was made flesh and then goes directly to the Baptism of Jesus and then to the miracle at Cana. The writers of the Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John did not have access to each other's writings. They were witnesses either to Jesus Himself or they had the oral traditions given to them first hand from the Apostles and Disciples. The Gospels were written under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. (Yes, there are other writings but they are not part of the Canon, the

Bible. The 'Canon' is all the books in the Bible, the Old Testament and the New Testament).

When we pray the "Hail Mary", we repeat the words of the Angel Gabriel in scripture "...Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb...". We are praying scripture. Then the prayer switches to petition. Mary is not a goddess; she leads us to God, the Son. He came through her and she is the mediator who leads us directly to Him, to Jesus.

The Nicene Creed tells the truth of what we believe and we need to build a relationship with the Lord to help us understand this miracle/mystery. The Nicene Creed states our belief, our faith... one God, Creator, Maker of heaven and earth, Jesus Christ conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and so on. In the early Church there were heresies. Dogmas were challenged and tested. The Church had to research tradition, scripture and other writings to defend and prove the truth that Jesus is true God and true man. The Catholic Catechism of the Catholic Church states *"The unique and altogether singular event of the Incarnation of the Son of God does not mean that Jesus Christ is part God and part man, nor does it imply that He is the result of a confused mixture of the divine and the human. He became truly man while remaining truly God. Jesus Christ is true God and true man. During the first centuries, the Church had to defend and clarify this truth of faith against the heresies that falsified it"*. (ccc 464).

Fr. Kris explained the Catechism of the Catholic Church. It is based on the Bible. It is broken into 4 parts: part one is the profession of Faith (the Creed); part 2 explains the Liturgy and the Sacraments; Part 3 is social life and social justice, morality, virtues, sin; part 4 explains Christian Prayer. The current Catechism was published in 1993. The first Catechism was formed as an answer to the Reformation in 1564.

The Incarnation is the beginning of salvation. The 'old' is done; the 'new' has begun. The 'old', that is, the Old Testament is rigid law. The 'new', that is, the New Testament is open with more freedom; love of the law. Jesus did not come to change the law; He brought love and forgiveness.

Incarnation: God became like us. The beauty/wonder of it ... He came (down) to share with us so we can share with Him.

God works through us. He is patient and forgiving.

The Bible, the Catechism, the Tradition, all is there for us, already explained. We do not have to 'invent-the-wheel' again. It is done for us. The 'core' is there for us, a standard.

Words have power. The Word in the Gospel is powerful. Every time you read it, you will see more and more. Do not stop; pursue, continue ... more and more.

Christmas is the Incarnation; the Word become flesh.

Closing prayer: the Our Father and the Hail Mary.

Submitted by
Mary Carrajat
Documenter