**How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?**

**IV SUNDAY DICEMBER 20 (Lk 1,26-38)**

The more one is full of grace and of the Holy Spirit, the more one is able to listen to the Lord, the more ready one is to welcome every word of his and build our entire life on it. Jesus is so full of grace and of the Holy Spirit that he is one with the Father in the Spirit of God. The will of the Father is his will. “*My food is to do the will of the Father and to complete his work*”. This is his profession of faith: *Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in me believes not only in me but also in the one who sent me, and whoever sees me sees the one who sent me. I came into the world as light, so that everyone who believes in me might not remain in darkness. And if anyone hears my words and does not observe them, I do not condemn him, for I did not come to condemn the world but to save the world. Whoever rejects me and does not accept my words has something to judge him: the word that I spoke, it will condemn him on the last day, because I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. So what I say, I say as the Father told me." (Jn 12,44-50).* The Virgin Mary is full of grace and the Holy Spirit from the first instant of her conception. Day by day she grows in grace and in the Holy Spirit. As soon as she listens to the Angel’s words, she feels great disturbance. The Angel explains the reason for his coming - and it is time for the Virgin Mary to manifest all her wisdom in the Spirit of the Lord - and she immediately asks that the modalities be revealed to her. God’s must be carried out according to God’s modalities. We cannot obey God by following our human ways, or modalities of the earth. The Angel tells her that she will have to do nothing, because the Holy Spirit will do everything and she instantly makes her profession of obedience: “*Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.”* This you ask me to do and this I will do. The Lord will be able to rely entirely on me. My life is his. It will be his forever.

*In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived  a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God. "Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.*

What happens in the Virgin Mary must also happen in our life. We cannot establish the modalities of obedience to God. It is the Lord who gives the Word and it is the Lord who also says how the Word is lived, announced, proclaimed, understood. Jesus not only spoke the Word of eternal life, he also showed us the ways in which to obey, asking us to learn from him: *Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light." (Mt 11,28-30).* The modalities of the apostolic mission also come from him: *Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore,  and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Mt 28.18-20).* If there is a detachment from these modalities, there is no real mission.

Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints, make that we act according to revelation’s modalities.