

# Jesus Calls Us to Say Yes

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 1, Session 4**.

The Annunciation celebrates the announcement to Mary by the angel Gabriel that God had chosen her to be the mother of the Messiah, a Son who would be named *Jesus*, or “God saves.”

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In saying yes to becoming the mother of Jesus, Mary becomes Jesus’ first disciple.

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The Immaculate Conception proclaims that Mary was free from Original Sin from the moment of her conception.

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Mary’s yes to the angel Gabriel is called her *fiat*, which means “let it be done.” Catholics have a particular devotion to Mary because she responded to God with complete faith.

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Grace is a gift of God, given to us without our meriting it. Grace is a deep and intimate connection between God and us.

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Actual grace is the grace that helps us make choices to live our lives as God wants.

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Sanctifying grace is imparted to us first through the Sacrament of Baptism and produces in us a permanent condition in which we are pleasing to God as God’s children. Sanctifying grace is also called habitual grace.

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Saint Ignatius of Loyola founded a religious order called the Society of Jesus. One of his greatest contributions to Catholicism is his book called *Spiritual Exercises*.

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With God’s grace we live in his love and make decisions about our actions that will lead us to do what is good.

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When we pray the Hail Mary, we ask for Mary’s intercession to God on our behalf.

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