

Serving God and Others

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 3, Session 14**.

God sent the angel Gabriel to the town of Nazareth to give a message to Mary. Gabriel told Mary not to be afraid and that she would have a Son, Jesus, whose kingdom will have no end.

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Gabriel told Mary that she would give birth by the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary responded that she was the handmaid of the Lord.

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Mary could have said no to God's request, but she had received the grace to say yes to what God asked her to do. Mary's joyful acceptance of God's message made her the first and the greatest of the disciples. During the liturgical year, there are many feast days honoring Mary.

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Like Mary, we are called to discipleship. We say yes to this call by following Jesus, telling others about the Kingdom of God, and caring for creation.

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We are called to solidarity with the whole world, especially with people who are poor, suffering, or vulnerable.

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God wants each of us to say yes to him. Prayer is one way for us to hear what God is asking of us.

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God chose Mary to be Jesus' mother. We also call her Mother of God and Mother of the Church.

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Jesus taught that God loves everyone.

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Some flowers associated with Mary have special meanings. The violet, known as Our Lady's Modesty, is associated with her humility. Lily of the valley, known as Mary's Tears, is a reminder of her sorrow at Jesus' Death. The hawthorn is referred to as Mary's flower of May.

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