

2007-08 BSP#6 Group Time Discussion

L – Low, M – Medium, and H – High, indicate the difficulty of a question. Group leaders should select questions that are challenging to their groups but not so difficult that their group members cannot answer.

(A) “He Opened to Us the Scriptures” - Questions for Reflection and Discussion (Time available: 15 minutes. Do at least 2 questions.)

1. [L] Both Eve and Mary had conversations with angels. At the bidding of a fallen angel, Eve took action. What was it? (See Gen. 3:6.) In Luke 1:38, at the bidding of the angel, Gabriel, Mary also took action. What was it?
2. [M] How was Mary’s action at the Annunciation a reversal of what Eve did in the Garden?
3. [H] The wife of Uriah, Bathsheba is one of the 5 women mentioned in Matthew’s genealogy of Jesus. Why is Bathsheba considered a pre-figuration of Mary? Hint: Read 1 Kings 2:19 and keep in mind the relationship between Bathsheba and King Solomon. If still in doubt, reflect on the 5th Glorious Mystery of the Rosary.

(B) “Did Not Our Hearts Burn?” – Question(s) for Group Meditation and Prayer. Select either (B)1 or (B)2. (Suggested time: 20 minutes)

Read CCC 148-9 below:

148 The Virgin Mary most perfectly embodies the obedience of faith. By faith Mary welcomes the tidings and promise brought by the angel Gabriel, believing that "with God nothing will be impossible" and so giving her assent: "Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be [done] to me according to your word." Elizabeth greeted her: "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." It is for this faith that all generations have called Mary blessed.

149 Throughout her life and until her last ordeal when Jesus her son died on the cross, Mary's faith never wavered. She never ceased to believe in the fulfillment of God's word. And so the Church venerates in Mary the purest realization of faith.

Reflect on Mary’s faith as illustrated in CCC 148-9 above. Discuss with your group members what you can learn from her faith, and how you can benefit from it.