

Maya Morales Quinceañera

We don't know how old the Virgin Mary was when the angel appeared to her. She may have been around 15. We aren't sure. But we can tell from Luke's account of this event that Mary had a lot of questions. She probably wondered who this angel was. She wondered what the message meant. She wondered how it could come to pass. She wondered why she had been chosen from among all women.

Maya, you come today into this sacred space to thank God for the gift of your life and to open your heart to what God asks of you. Like Mary, you may have lots of questions. What does God want you to do with your life? Who are the trustworthy people who will guide you best? What will their message mean for you? How will your future direction come to pass? Why did God make you and choose you for the task that lies ahead? Already you have felt the presence of God in your heart and a strong desire to serve him. Already you have devoted time to prayer and service. The future is exciting, and we believe you will do much to make the world a better place because God has something special in mind for you.

It's natural to have questions. Even Mary had those. It is supernatural to respond to them as Mary did. She could not have known all that lay ahead in the birth, life and death of her Son. But she had come to an assurance of faith in God. She had learned somehow that God was trustworthy, that God had spoken words to her in the past, and that she had become comfortable with whatever God wanted. Mary knew that if she saw herself not as an independent woman or even as a daughter, but as the "handmaid of the Lord," that all would go well.

All of us face times in our lives when we place ourselves in God's presence with questions. We don't know what decision is best, what the future will bring, or if we have the strength and wisdom to do what we should do. But each of us has learned that the most trustworthy source we have is the Word of God. When we don't know all the answers, we best say Mary's prayer: "May it be done to me according to your word."