

GOSPEL PEARLS

Bells remind us to pray the Angelus

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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, full of grace! 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 favour 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. Luke 1:26-38)*

Every day at noon church bells ring reminding us to pray the Angelus in remembrance of the Annunciation. The angel Gabriel says Mary is "full of grace", since she, unlike us, is free from original sin. However, Mary, like us, was saved by Jesus (in theology we say *ante praevisa merita*, that is, saved according to that which is preordained to us by Christ who died and rose). Mary had constant trust in the Will of God, even before fully understanding it. Let us follow Mary's example so as to have her very same trust in God.