

12-21-2008 Homily

If today's happening was life-transforming for Mary of Nazareth ... and for us and for the history of all human beings ... it was also life-transforming for someone else.

When Gabriel returned to heaven his glorious head of light listed to the side, and he wore a far-away grin that was almost silly. At first the other angels pretended not to notice. They were used to each other getting caught up in one or another aspect of God's incredible beauty and goodness, and going semi-hypnotic ... and they would be discrete, letting each other be, as this one or that one was absorbed in prayer and contemplation. But Gabriel's case was lasting longer than usual, so a lesser spirit who had a special love with Gabriel gently touched his shoulder.

"Are you alright, creature of light?"

"better than alright," Gabriel cooed back. "I have just seen the most dazzling thing. I saw a human being who had given herself completely to God. Outside of God in God's self, it was the most touching, tender, glorious beautiful thing I have ever seen.

"I thought I knew what human nature was. I've seen so many of them ... men, women, children. They're all flawed. They're all odd, inattentive to God, petty, self-seeking. Their have almost zero spiritual attention spans ... and then there are these dark, savage urges....

"I've always been one to offer them mercy and love; I'm 100% with God on that.

"But today I saw a human nature that wasn't flawed. Evidently being flawed is not an essential part of human beings, because there she was --- splendid, attentive, kindly, brilliant with virtues and spiritual gifts ... and in a deeper union with the Father of Light than I've ever witnessed anywhere in heaven or on earth ... or imagined was possible."

The lesser angel let out a low whistle.

"Yes," continued Gabriel. "I now understand that human beings were made for complete and totally intimate union with God and with each other. It's their nature, and what the Father of lights made them to be. They are more capable of love from God and for God, and more capable of union with God, than any angel or other created thing."

The bright spirit brightened further. "I caught a glimpse of God's plan. All human beings are called to be second Mary's. And one day, after unspeakable pain and passion, God will have his way with that ... and with them. And I will be able to walk up to each one of them, individually and specifically, and say: Hail, full of grace. The Lord is utterly, unimaginably, irreversibly and forever ... with you!"