



Advent Reflections for EOHSJ 4th Sunday of Advent 2023

Reflection by Rev. Daniel Rolland, O.P., KHS

Gospel of Luke 1:26-38

This Advent is the shortest it can be. We will celebrate this weekend of the Fourth Sunday of Advent only to return back and celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord. However, the quality of our Advent is not measured in its length but in the depths of our preparedness, and sometimes it only takes a “yes” to make that happen. In the Gospel for this Fourth Sunday we receive from Luke the Annunciation to Mary that she will bear a son, and the Angel goes on to explain that this child will be the Son of God. That is a lot of serious news for a young lady who only recently became betrothed. 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.

I can't imagine a more beautiful way to say yes, your will be done, I put my trust in you my God. She puts no condition on the situation. She does not try to haggle with the Angel or somehow get better terms for the situation. She surrenders but not blindly. Her faith is in God. It was always in God. If this is what God is asking of her she trusts that God would take care of her in all that was promised not just by the Angel Gabriel, but by God through the prophets and the teachers of her people.

I am but the servant of my Lord, I trust in you whatever you ask of me. May it be done according to your Word. Could this be our response to what God is asking in our family life? Is it the way we conduct ourselves in our business life? Civilly, are we looking for the good of our neighbors or looking after what God has given us as He has made His will known? And before we excuse ourselves from this **Yes** that is asked of us let us remember our prayer which Jesus taught, at least that part of the prayer which asks that, God's will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

This next day, celebrating the birth of our Lord and acknowledging the power of God's Love for us, let us open our hearts and lives to the one who truly knows what is best for us and may your big yes lead to a great Advent.

Happy Fourth Sunday of Advent, as short as it is, and a Christ filled Christmas to you and your family.

Fr. Daniel Rolland is a member of the Western Dominican Province and has been a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre Jerusalem for a year and a half. He is the Director of the St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center in Las Vegas and celebrates his 30 years of priesthood with great joy and faith.