

Homily  
The Annunciation  
April 8, 2024

In eighth grade, when I was confirmed, I remember saying to myself that I would not sin anymore. In my wee little mind, that lasted maybe a week. In reality, it lasted maybe a day. We all want to not sin anymore. This is our intention when we go to confession; we say we are sorry for our sins and we will try to sin no more.

Mary is named, “Full of Grace.” Why is this significant? When are we ‘full of grace?’ After receiving the Sacraments. But Mary hadn’t received any Sacraments at that point in her young life. This means she was ‘full of grace’ before Jesus entered her. How can this be? First, she had to be set apart; she had to be without Original Sin. But that’s not enough. For her to be ‘full of grace’ when the angel Gabriel came to her, she had to have continued in a state of grace from the moment of her conception to that moment. How can we remain in a ‘state of grace?’ In order to remain in a ‘state of grace,’ we must always and in all situations say, “Yes” to God; we must align our will to His in all things; in all we say and in all we do. This is what Mary did and this is why the angel’s greeting is so significant.

The goal is simple; say, “Yes” to God. And when we fail, we rely on God’s grace and the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist to return to God, heal our soul and strengthen us for the next time to say, “Yes!”

Mary said, “Yes.” Not just to the angel, but to God in everything she did and said, from the moment of her conception to today. She says, “Yes” even now. This is why we have recourse to her Immaculate Heart to reach out to Jesus through her intercession. And this is how we can say, “Yes” to God until we meet Him face to face in that heavenly kingdom.