



December 9, 2024

Say Yes!!

The computer system in a hospital in London was used to send form letters to people informing them that their operations had been postponed. In January 2002, a clerical worker hit the wrong key, and letters were mistakenly sent to over 30 unsuspecting patients informing them that they were...pregnant! Among the recipients were 6 elderly men! "Dear Sir, your doctor at London Hospital is pleased to inform you that you are 'great with child.'" Can you imagine the shock? I'm guessing there was high anxiety in all those households.

Don't you think Mary experienced troubling thoughts when the angel Gabriel first appeared to her? Here's Mary baking bread or drawing water, cleaning the house, mending clothes, spinning yarn. And an angel appears and says, "Greetings, favored one." And Mary goes, "Whoa!" And Gabriel says, "Don't be afraid. You will conceive and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He'll be great, Mary!" And she responds, "How can this be since I am a virgin?" And Gabriel says "Well, the Holy Spirit will come to you, a child will be born, and he will be called the 'Son of God.'" So calm was Gabriel, but it has been suggested that perhaps he was trembling with fear beneath his great golden wings, thinking that the whole future of creation hung on the answer of this young girl from a little jerkwater town in Galilee. Yet Gabriel said, "Nothing will be impossible with God."

It's almost as though the angel is saying to Mary, "The God of

Anything-is-Possible is speaking to you.” How do you respond to that? Most of us nod our heads and smile. But do we really believe it? We yearn to believe that there is more to life than running like a hamster in a wheel. But do we believe that God has the answers to our lives?

So how did Mary respond to the news? She said, “Yes!” to the angel and “Yes!” to Jesus.” Mary didn’t worry about her engagement, her social standing, her health. Instead, she said YES to a baby who would grow up to be the Savior of the world and provide a way for us to be cared for eternally.

The challenge for us today is to consider whether we are open and receptive to the coming of Jesus into our lives during this Advent season. Are we willing to risk letting Jesus come into our lives? Really let him in to change us? Let’s get ready for an angel to show up and get ready to say “YES!” as Mary did and take what comes next.

~Written by Rev. Pamela Pendexter

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