

Life is not always like we WANT it to be or as we EXPECT it to be.

There are surprises, unpredictable happenings, gifts and blessings.
There are also losses, tragedies, accidents and sudden turns of events.

This was true for Adam and Eve in our 1st reading.
It is true for Mary in the Gospel.
It is true for us present at this Liturgy.

The challenge we have each day is to say YES to WHAT IS.

It is cold, cloudy or snowing. Yes!
I have to wait in line at the check out or at the Post Office. Yes!
I am forgetful at this moment. Yes!
I am struggling to get along with someone. Yes! It is true. It is the way it is.

A modern example of Mary's YES to be the Mother of the Savior is the Serenity Prayer:

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;
the courage to change the things I can;
and the wisdom to know the difference.

Our saying YES to WHAT IS does not mean we necessarily LIKE what is; that we will have it easier by saying YES to WHAT IS.

It means: We are not God.....we are a part of creation.
It means we are not always in charge and in control. Mary's life was turned upside down by her
YES.

It means we submit or surrender to a PLAN or WILL greater than our own.

The BOTTOM LINE is: like Mary, we are SERVANTS of the Divine. We are INSTRUMENTS of GOD'S plan.

Today and everyday, let's see how often we can be like Mary in saying YES.....to give birth to Christ within us.