

***FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 21, 2014***

***SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT***

***I GIVE HOMILY IN FIRST PART....***

***SECOND PART KATHY DEMPSEY GIVES REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS  
FITTING, TWO FIGURES IN OUR GOSPEL STORY....***

***ANGEL AND MARY.....I REPRESENT THE ANGEL & KATHY IS MARY...***

***I ALWAYS LEARN A LOT....***

***COMMENTARY ON TODAY'S READINGS IN NATIONAL CATHOLIC***

***REPORTER BY MARY MCGLONE, A SISTER OF ST. JOSEPH OF  
CARONDELET***

***FRA ANGELICO PRODUCED VARIOUS DEPICTIONS OF ANNUNCIATION  
(15TH CENTURY DOMICAN - 1400'S - ON INTERNET)***

***"ANNUNCIATION OF CORTONA" IS PARTICULARLY STRIKING CONNECTS  
MARY AND THE ANGEL BY WRITING WORDS OF THE CONVERSATION  
BETWEEN THEM.....***

***THE ANGEL'S DECLARATION THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL COME UPON  
HER IS STRAIGHTFORWARD BUT MARY'S RESPONSE,***

***"BEHOLD THE HANDMAID OF THE LORD, BE IT UNTO ME ACCORDING TO  
YOUR WORD" IS WRITTEN UPSIDE DOWN AND BACKWARD...***

***YOU HAVE TO STAND ON YOUR HEAD AND READ IT FROM RIGHT TO LEFT  
TO UNDERSTAND IT...***

***WE DON'T KNOW FRA ANGELICO'S INTENT BUT TO ME IT SAYS A LOT  
ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF MARY RESPONSE TO GOD'S INVITATION....***

***ONCE MARY SPOKE HER WORDS OF ACCEPTANCE HER LIFE WAS***

***IRREVOCABLY CHANGED.....***

***SHE GAVE HERSELF OVER TO GOD'S DESIGNS IN A WAY THAT NO OTHER PERSON HAD EVER BEEN ASKED TO DO....***

***AS A RESULT, HE LIFE WAS TURNED UPSIDE DOWN AND INSIDE OUT....***

***SHE COULD NEVER HAVE ANTICIPATED THE IMPLICATIONS OF HER CONSENT....***

***TO ME THAT IS THE CHALLENGE OF THE ANNUNCIATION....***

***GOD INVITES US TO BE AVAILABLE....***

***WE ARE TO CULTIVATE OUR ATTENTIVENESS AND GENEROSITY SO THAT WE CAN HEAR WELL AND BE OPEN TO WHAT GOD HOPES TO DO THROUGH US....***

***EVEN THOUGH IT MAY SEEM UNIMAGINABLE AND MAY NOT FIT OUR PLANS....***

***EVEN THOUGH IT MAY TURN OUR LIVES UPSIDE DOWN AND INSIDE OUT E.G.THIS PAST WEEK.....WED NIGHT***

***MY BROTHER IN LAW WAS RECOVERING FROM SURGERY IN ICU AT GOOD SAM***

***HE CODED - HIS HEART/HIS BREATHING STOPPED FOR 10-12 MINUTES....***

***HE WAS RESUSCITATED....***

***I WAS CALLED TO THE HOSPITAL TO BE WITH MY SISTER.....***

***EVENTUALLY AFTER BEING PLACED IN A MECIALLY INDUCED COMA FOR 24 HRS AND I WAS RETURNING FROM GOOD SAMARITAN IN THE***

***DARKNESS DRIVING DOWN SALEM AVE.MY PRAYER AS MUCH AS***

*POSSIBLE WAS TO PLACE HIM COMPLETELY IN THE HANDS OF GOD.....*

*"THY WILL BE DONE".*

*OF COURSE, IT WOULD BE NATURAL AND UNDERSTANDABLE TO PRAY FOR HIS COMPLETE RECOVERY, TO PRAY THAT WE WOULDN'T BE FACED WITH PLANNING A FUNERAL DURING CHRISTMAS WEEK....*

*AND I'M SURE THAT KIND OF PRAYER IS OK TOO.....*

*BUT THE BEST OF OUR FAITH CALLS US TO TAKE THE RISK AND TRUST IN GOD'S DESIGNS NOT OURS....NOT OUR EGO DESIGNS, OUR CONTROL IT IS VERY HARD WHEN THERE IS SO MUCH AT STAKE.....*

*FORTUNATELY, HE DID RECOVER AND IS DOING BETTER....*

*THE MODEL THAT MARY PRESENTS TO US TODAY IS A RISKY ONE -*

*ONE THAT ENCOURAGES US TO LISTEN ATTENTIVELY FOR THE*

*MOVEMENTS OF THE SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES AND RESPOND GENEROUSLY*

*AND WHOLEHEARTEDLY....*

*"THY WILL BE DONE"*

*MAY THAT BE OUR PRAYER.....*