

# Mary, a Model to Follow

Reflection by Fr. Raúl Gómez-Ruiz, SDS

The Annunciation is a celebration of vocation. Devout Catholics pray a devotional prayer, usually at noon, called the Angelus. It is a prayer that recalls the appearance of the archangel Gabriel to the Blessed Virgin Mary at Nazareth, announcing to her that God has called her to be the Mother of the Word made Flesh, the second person of the Most Holy Trinity. It is her vocation. She is to name this child the Son of God, Jesus, “God saves” (Lk 1:31), for God has heard the cries of the suffering of His people and is coming to them to save them from all that separates them/us from Him and one another. He does this by sharing in our humanity so we may share in His divinity. Indeed, the scriptures show how Jesus manifests Himself and His salvation amid problems, be they health, blindness, rejection, or sin. Wherever there is something to “free” or save people from, Jesus is there to bring the joy of salvation to the people involved. He is truly the Divine Savior.



Because Mary responded with her “fiat,” Let it be done to me according to your word (Lk 1:38), she gives us a model to follow in God’s call to us to participate in His salvation. All Christians have a vocation, some to be priests, brothers, sisters, or committed laymen or women. We Salvatorians, whether priest, brother, sister, or lay, are also called to be instruments of salvation according to our Founder, Bl. Francis Jordan (*Talks*, 1897/04/08). He goes on to say: “You are called to be holy. Your task, your duty – the most sacred duty of your state in life – is to strive for holiness. What an exalted and holy vocation! Everything has been arranged with a view to making you saints – the highest vocation you can have in heaven or on earth. Let us never forget these thoughts, this calling, this admonition, this duty” (*Talks*, 1894/04/20).



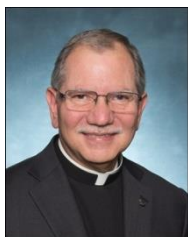
The founder also invites us to call upon the Blessed Mother to help fulfill our vocation. Let us join him in his prayer to her as found in his Spiritual Diary:

*“Oh, Mother of God,  
be my protectress and powerful helper.”*

In the Divine Savior,

**Fr. Raúl Gómez-Ruiz, SDS**

Vigil of the Annunciation of the BVM, 24 March, 1905 (SD II/87)



**Fr Raúl Gómez-Ruiz, SDS**

Professed in 1982, Fr. Raúl ministered for nearly 25 years at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology (SHSST). He then moved to Rome, Italy to serve as vicar general and general secretary to our international Society of the Divine Savior for six years. Upon his return to the USA, he was appointed the new president-rector of Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology (SHSST), where he continues to serve. Fr. Raúl was recently elected to serve as Vicar for the USA Province.