



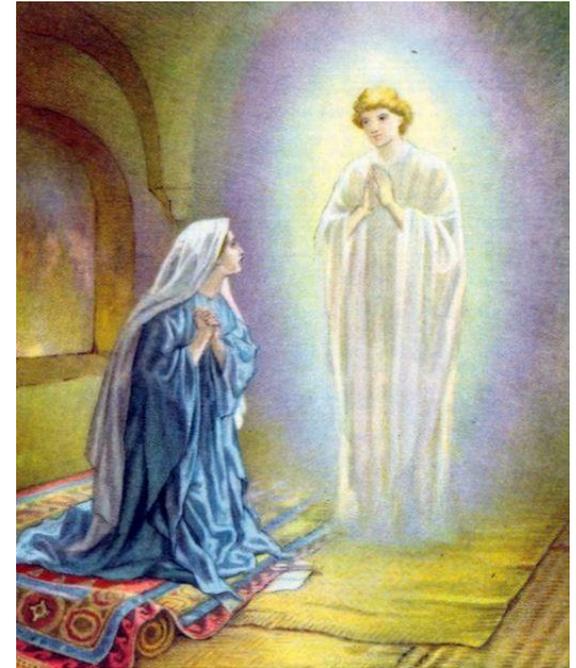
“Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with you;  
blessed are you among women.” – Luke 1:28



Favored by God

# Meaning of “favor”

- ▶ “Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women.” (Lk. 1:28)
- ▶ (Lk. 1:30) “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.”
- ▶ Meaning #1: A feeling of favor (by God)
- ▶ Meaning #2: He gives something of Himself to a person



# King David

- ▶ “The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people...” (1 Sam 13:14)
- ▶ “And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, ‘**I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart**, who will do all My will.’”  
(Acts 13:22)



# What appealed to God in St. Mary and King David?

## ▶ St. Mary

- ▶ “...she was troubled at his saying...” (Lk. 1:29)

## ▶ David

- ▶ His repentance and desire for purity
- ▶ “So let him curse, because the Lord has said to him, ‘Curse David.’ Who then shall say, ‘Why have you done so?’” (2 Sam. 16:10)
- ▶ “...a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.” (Ps. 50:17 LXX)

# How can we have this heart of God?

1. We are disturbed by being praised
  - ▶ EX: The Late Bishop Sarabamoun
2. Humble yourself before God in sincere repentance

# We are fortunately favored

- ▶ Being graced by the Holy Spirit
- ▶ Being graced by the Lord Christ
  - ▶ In the Eucharist
  - ▶ “...He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.” (Eph. 1:4-6)
- ▶ Being graced by the Father