

	<b>Annunciation</b>	
<b>Presence of God</b>	Considering how God looks at me.	
<b>History</b> Luke 1, 26 – 38	<p>26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.</p> <p>28 He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, you who enjoy God's favor! The Lord is with you.'</p> <p>29 She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, 30 but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favor.</p> <p>31 Look! You are to conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; 33 he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.'</p> <p>34 Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I have no knowledge of man?'</p> <p>35 The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God.</p> <p>36 And I tell you this too: your cousin Elizabeth also, in her old age, has conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, 37 for nothing is impossible to God.'</p> <p>38 Mary said, 'You see before you the Lord's servant, let it happen to me as you have said.' And the angel left her.</p>	
<b>Petition</b>	<i>Lord, may I know you more clearly, love you more deeply and follow you more nearly!</i>	
<b>Contemplation</b>	<p><b>vv 26 – 27 Mary, from the small town of Nazareth</b>  <i>Where did Mary live? ... In Nazareth. It was a very small town and the people who lived there were very humble.</i>  <i>We will now close our eyes and imagine what Mary's house looked like ... imagine Virgin Mary, what was she doing when the angel went in? How did the angel get in?</i></p> <p><b>vv 28 – 37 Mary, chosen to be God's Mother</b>  <i>Let's imagine angel Gabriel's joy when he gave Mary God's message. He told her very excited: "Rejoice you, Mary!" How did the Virgin feel when she was greeted in that way? God was sending her a very important message – He wanted to know if she would like to be His mom!</i>  <i>Let's close our eyes and imagine what the Virgin felt when she received this message from God.</i></p> <p><b>v 38 Mary, the Lord's servant</b>  <i>Mary, her parents, and the People of God had been waiting for the Messiah that God had promised since ancient times. As the people were suffering deeply, they prayed and asked God to send the promised savior. Mary from the bottom of her heart also wanted the Savior to come and now ... God was telling her that she had been chosen to be the Savior's mom! What a nice surprise! But she was not conceited; on the contrary, she felt she was small, a humble girl from a small town in the middle of nowhere, and answered that she was at God's disposal for whatever He may wish.</i>  <i>"You see before you the Lord's servant, let it happen to me as you have said." What does being a "servant" mean?</i>  <i>The angel left after giving Mary the message, and then she was all by herself. Let's imagine Mary... how does she feel when she sees that God starts growing as a baby in her womb?</i></p>	<p><b>St. Ignatius regarded the composition of the place essential: "the composition, imagining the place" (cf. SE 103). When a person resorts to his imagination, his true psychological traits emerge without so many rational barriers, and it is at that time that God manifests himself.</b></p> <p><b>When children share what they have imagined in a loud voice, you can see that what they say matches what they are like, and you can discover that there is a message from God in what they have imagined, in what has called their attention, in their composition of the place, etc.</b></p> <p><b>For example, a very energetic and dynamic child may be impressed by Mary's peaceful and humble home. Isn't this a message from God?</b></p> <p><b>For teachers, this is a privileged time to get to know their students better.</b></p>

**Colloquy**

*Let's sit on the carpet, on the promised land, near Jesus, to hear him in the silence of our hearts.  
Put your hands on you heart to feel Jesus inside us, just as he was inside Mary's womb and heart... In silence, tell Jesus what you feel.  
If you want, you can tell Mary or Jesus something in a loud voice.*

