

December 10th: Our Lady of Loreto

Gospel text (Lk 1:26-38): In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you..."

Our Lady of Loreto

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)

(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, at Loreto we have the opportunity to attend the school of Mary who was called "blessed" because she "believed" (Lk 1:45). This Shrine, built around her earthly home, preserves the memory of the moment when the angel of Lord came to Mary with the great announcement of the Incarnation, and she gave her reply. This humble home is a physical, tangible witness to the greatest event in our history, the Incarnation; the Word became flesh and Mary, the handmaid of the Lord, is the privileged channel through which God came to dwell among us (cf. Jn 1:14).

Mary offered her very body; she placed her entire being at the disposal of God's will, becoming the "place" of his presence, a "place" of dwelling for the Son of God. The will of Mary coincides with the will of the Son in the Father's unique project of love and, in her, heaven and earth are united, God the Creator is united to his creature. God becomes man, and Mary becomes a "living house" for the Lord, a temple where the Most High dwells.

—We must return to God, so that man may return to being man. With God, even in difficult times or moments of crisis, there is always a horizon of hope.