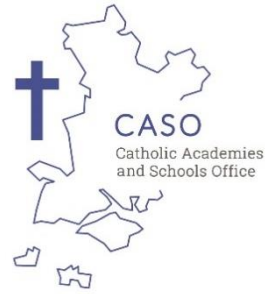




PRAYER & FORMATION FOR EDUCATING TOGETHER IN OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



PRAYER

RISE UP & SAY YES!

Gather, light a candle if possible and make the sign of the cross to acknowledge Christ's presence amongst you. Choose to either sing/listen to [Ave Marie](#) or [Immaculate Mary](#) by clicking on your choice

Pray. Dear ever-living God, with Your power nothing is impossible. With spirit raised and hearts trusting, we are grateful for your promise that when two or more are gathered, you are there amongst them. **Amen**

D. João Marcos
Church of Our
Lady of Fatima
of Jeromelo,
Milharado
Parish
Mafra, 2013



Read and reflect upon The Gospel of Saint Luke (Luke 1, 26- 39)

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her. At that time Mary rose up and set out quickly to a town in the hill country of Judea."

The Gospel of the Lord. R/ **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

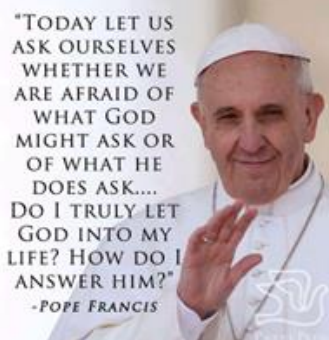
Closing prayers

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We fly to your protection,
O Holy Mother of God;
Do not despise our petitions
in our necessities,
but deliver us always
from every danger,
O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.
AMEN

FORMATION

ASK YOURSELF What about you?



**Will you
rise up?**

Addressing those gathered for the 34th World Youth Day, Panama, January 26, 2019 Pope Francis said "We are always struck by the strength of that young woman's "yes", the words "be it done" that she spoke to the angel. This was no merely passive or resigned acceptance or a faint "yes", as if to say, "Well, let's give it a try, and see what happens". Mary did not know that expression: "let's see what happens". She was determined, she knew what was at stake and said "yes", getting straight to the point. It was something more, something different. It was the "yes" of someone prepared to be committed, someone willing to take a risk, ready to stake everything she had, with no more security than the certainty of knowing that she was the bearer of a promise.

And I ask each one of you: do you see yourselves as bearers of a promise? What promise is there within your heart to take forward? Mary's would undoubtedly be a difficult mission, but the challenges that lay ahead were no reason to say "no". Things would get complicated, of course, but not in the same way as happens when cowardice paralyzes us because things are not clear or sure in advance. Mary did not take out an insurance policy! Mary took the risk and for this reason she is strong, for this reason she is an "influencer", the "influencer" of God! The "yes" and the desire to serve were stronger than any doubts and difficulties."