

March 25

(Moved to April 9th this year because of Palm Sunday.)

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

When Christmas was assigned to December 25 in the fourth century, it was predictable that this day would eventually become a celebration of Jesus'



conception nine months earlier. This feast, under its ancient title, celebrates the wondrous event that binds God and humanity forever. Christ, the divine Word, is made flesh in the virginal womb of Mary to become

the Son of Mary, who thus becomes the Mother of God. The liturgy celebrates the beginning of God's new redemptive work and recognizes Mary as the "New Eve," the obedient and faithful woman and disciple who generously agrees to be a participant in God's plan of salvation. May we imitate her generous and trusting commitment by which she entrusts herself fully to God and God's mysterious ways.

*Like Mary, how might I say "yes" to God's desire
to be born anew in me?*