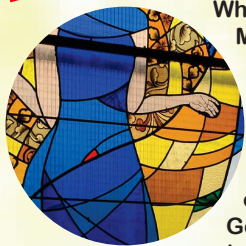


OUR LADY OF ANGELS

ORIGINAL SCRIPTURE : GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

« Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town in Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin who was to be married to a man named Joseph, of the family of David ; and the name of the virgin was Mary. And the angel came in to her and said «Peace be with you, to whom special grace has been given ; the Lord is with you.» But she was greatly troubled at his words, and said to herself « What may be the purpose of these words ? » And the angel said to her «Have no fear, Mary, for you have God's approval. And see, you will give birth to a son, and his name will be Jesus. He will be great, and will be named the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the kingdom of David, his father. He will have rule over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.»(...) And Mary said : « I am the servant of the Lord ; may it be to me as you say.» »

UNDERSTANDING ELEMENTS



When the angel Gabriel comes to see Mary and tells him about God's plan, Mary does not answer « yes » or « no » or even « maybe, but I would need to think about it » ! She is « the servant of the Lord »: she does her will. That's why at the very moment when the Angel announces God's plan to her, even if she is surprised, she has already accepted. The little piece of red, the symbolic color of Royalty and Passion (which Christ will live by dying on the Cross) present in Mary's womb, reflects the presence of Jesus in her. Her physical attitude here shows her deep confidence in God, and in the announcement of the Angel, despite the incomprehension she may have.



In some places you can observe a mixture of glass pieces : some of full color, and others with painted forms with floral pattern. If you look around you in the chapel, you will find these patterns on the old stained glass windows. Indeed, pieces of old stained glass windows of the chapel were saved and integrated in the new ones, in order to keep a harmony of colors and forms. It is also a way of experiencing the continuity between what has happened and what is a new happening : we can rely on past achievements to create something new. This idea of transmission seemed to me quite appropriate in the chapel of a school !



The figure of the Angel is sometimes seen as a messenger of God, sometimes as an allegory to represent God himself. Here, the Angel has a performative word : he announces what is happening by his very word, represented by the gesture of the Angel : we can see that emanates from him an impulse towards Mary. By divine grace, the mystery of the incarnation is realized in the body of Mary. Jesus, « true God », takes flesh in the body of Mary. He is thus « true man » too : his humanity is complete. The little red piece (see text opposite) is in fact at the same time on the line of the divine grace sent by the Angel, and at the same time in the fully human body of Mary.

