



*And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior..."*

Luke 1:46-47, NRSV

Dear Annunciation Members,

As Christians we are story tellers. We have an ancient narrative, one that describes the beginning of time and the relationship between God and God's Creation. We see this story grow through the prophetic tradition until our story recounts the life and gifts of the Son of God. But the story doesn't end with the Resurrection just as it did not end with the Cross, it continues on in each of us today as we encounter and are transformed by the Good News. Our lives are new chapters in the Gospel of the Good News and we have such great stories to share with one another!

Luke's Gospel is bookended by the animated story-telling of two women named Mary. Early in the Gospel, Mary the mother of Jesus, tells us of her encounter with the Divine who informs her that she will bear a child who will change the world. She proclaims her joy: "Tell out my soul! The Greatness of the Lord!" At the end of the Gospel, another Mary, Mary Magdalene, visits the tomb to discover it empty and receives instructions from the Risen Christ to go tell the others. She carries this Good News with jubilation to the Disciples.

What is your Good News; the idea, dream, challenge placed in your heart by God, that needs to be shared? What is the ministry to which you are called which will change the world, sharing your talents, gifts, and love with your neighbors?

Our Stewardship Campaign this year focuses on these stories – the ones inside you, the ones you are still writing, the ones we tell about those who have gone before us. We are all a part of this ongoing narrative – the ongoing Creation. As you pray about how you will share your gifts with us this year, think about how God is calling you to tell out your soul, to spread the Good News far and wide. Hear the stories that we share weekly throughout our stewardship campaign that relate the creative spark in us with the ways in which we are called to serve God and love our neighbor.

Tell out my soul! The Greatness of the Lord!

In Christ, Fr. Paul+