As Big as the Big Bang: Mary's Yes. November's Four Minute Retreat.

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Introduction:

Recently I read a definition of the big bang. "The universe began as a tiny, dense and hot fire ball that exploded. It is still expanding; and galaxies are moving away from each other. Scientists estimate the universe to be about 13.8 billion years old." Believers' questions often are: Did God create that original fireball? How was God involved in the creation of the universe? The answer to these questions will be debated among theologians and scientists way beyond our lifetime. But we know the answer to the other big bang that happened when God intervened in our universe over two thousand years ago. This intervention was as powerful as the original big bang; but it happened in a quiet way. Human beings had been searching for who they are, where they are going, and what path to follow since consciousness was awakened in one of our predecessors. This is what we know about God's intervention. Over 2000 years ago, a young woman was going about her life and duties when a messenger from God approached her. This messenger asked her to cooperate in God's plan to let humans know they are loved by God in a new way, in human form. So, Mary was invited to be the mother of the Messiah. She questioned the messenger while God waited for her response. Finally, she responded to the request with a "Yes" that changed the universe as much as the big bang did.

Scripture:

The messenger said to Mary, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold you will conceive in your womb and bear a son; and you shall name him, Jesus. To her question about how this would happen. He responded, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you. Therefore, the Child will be called holy, the Son of God." And Mary said: "Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me According to your word. Luke 26-38)

Reflection Questions:

God needed the cooperation of Mary to fulfill his plan of salvation. Are we cooperating with God's desires for us which are planted deep in our hearts?

Do we see the "yes" of Mary as a big bang for humankind? Is it so for me?

Action:

Start thinking now about how you will observe the Advent Season.