

Br. Jonathan the Annunciation of the Lord is a most appropriate feastday for your taking the next step on your monastic journey. Its liturgy tells us, that God for his universal plan of our salvation, wanted to depend on the B.V.M. who at 1st was disturbed & scared of the idea, but then wholeheartedly consented in faith & trust, without exactly knowing what she was letting herself into. She made her commitment: "I am the handmaid of the Lord; let what you've said, be done to me". You too Jonathan are about to commit yourself to the Lord in faith & trust, unsure what the future will hold. But we can all be absolutely sure about 2 things. That God knows, that all of us have our weaknesses & limitations and that God will make up for whatever we are lacking. Therefore He gave all of us the 1 thing we need the most on our challenging journeys: namely the assurance of his presence. "I will be with you till the end of time." We will be able to live and fulfill our commitments, not only because of our own efforts, talents & skills, but above all, because of God's grace, which enables us to accomplish so much more than we could ever have done on our own. As St. Paul would say: "God's power will be made manifest through our weaknesses." Why can we be so sure & confident? Because God is closer to us; more intimate to us than we're to ourselves. God is the Creator of the universe & more powerful than we can ever imagine. He wants to set all of us on fire with his own presence make us as radiant & beautiful as possible. We can't control or avoid God. That would be an illusion & a hopeless path to take. We just need to learn to surrender to what he is asking of us. Then we will not only be on the right path, but we will also be at peace and happy. Finally: the black scapular, that will rest on your shoulders is a reminder of Jesus' words; "shoulder my yoke for it is easy & light, so find rest for your soul". And the belt around your waste symbolizes the truth with which to stand your ground in the spiritual battle and to resist the Devil's tactics.