

Connect timeless truths with today's news.

SHE COULDN'T BELIEVE THE PARTY WAS FOR HER

For more than two decades, Dolores Santucci (now 96) manned her hot dog cart in Hillsdale, New Jersey. "She was there six days a week, rain or shine," says Esther Davidowitz writing in NorthJersey.com. "Everyone in town and beyond, it seems, knew her, if not by name, then by her nickname: The Hot Dog Lady." After a liver infection sidelined her from working the cart, the city decided to honor the woman many called "Mom." The mayor proclaimed October 28 "Dolores Santucci Day," and more than 200 people turned out for the celebration. "It was a complete surprise," said Dolores of the party, which took place at the cart. "I couldn't believe it. The people are very nice. They always were nice."

HE COULDN'T BELIEVE GOD HAD GRANTED HIS PRAYER

For many decades, the priest Zechariah prayed that his wife, Elizabeth, would bear him a son. Sadly, she remained barren, and by the time they were both well advanced in years, one wonders if his prayers slowed or finally stopped. So, when the angel Gabriel appeared to Zechariah in the Temple and told him that his prayers for a son had been heard, Zechariah didn't buy it. He still got the son he'd prayed so long for, but there were consequences for his unbelief: he was rendered mute until his son, John the Baptist, was born.

1. If you could throw a big celebration to honor someone, who would it be?
2. When have you or someone else stopped praying for something only to receive it unexpectedly?
3. How do you think God decides if, how, and when to grant prayers?

Additional Resources

These videos and materials are for your personal use. If you show videos in class, be sure to have the necessary rights to do so.

Music Video, Traditional: ["Be Thou My Vision" by Elenyi](#)

Music Video, Multicultural: ["Be Thou My Vision" by Elenyi](#)

Music Video, Contemporary: ["Be Thou My Vision" by Elenyi](#)

[Guzik's Commentary on Luke 1](#)

[Pulpit Commentary on Luke 1](#)

[Coffman's Commentary on Luke 1](#)