

WORD FROM THE PASTOR



CHRISTMAS IS THE CREATION OF A NEW HOLY FAMILY OF GOD

The word of God for this Christmas Day is not a reinvention of the story of the nativity. Today's texts speak to us of what is at the heart of this mystery, **the mystery of creation through incarnation**. The reading of Isaiah which is proposed no longer comes from 1st Isaiah (Is 1-39), but from the 2nd (Is 40-55), it is chapter 52 which speaks, sings, and celebrates the salvation that God is going to make happen. Second Isaiah tells us that **God is the savior**. But God doesn't just save and then abandon us. He creates again. The 3rd Isaiah is run through by this theme of the new creation. God will bring about a new creation, free from sin and death, from injustice and slavery, from war and oppression.

This theme of the new creation is the one that Saint John takes up in his prologue to speak to us about Christmas and the incarnation. John's prologue begins with the first words of the book of Genesis: **"In the beginning."** At Christmas, as at Easter, the Scriptures are fulfilled, a new creation is born: **"To all who received Him He gave the power to become children of God, who believe in His name.** They were not born of blood, nor of carnal will, nor of the will of man: they were born of God."

The mystery of Christmas is to become children again, children of God. It is about being reborn with Christ in faith. John tells us that it is faith in Christ ("those who received him") that brings us into this new creation. At Christmas, we welcome a child to become children again, children of God. The Church invites us to celebrate, during these Christmas days, the holy family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. A family that is both simple and extraordinary. This celebration tells us of the human rooting of God. It is not a façade or mirage: the Word made flesh, it takes root in a people, in a culture: "Growing in wisdom, in stature and in grace under the gaze of God and men". God takes the time to experience all stages of human life. **The family is a place where the learning of love is experienced in deeds and in truth.** It is the place where the values essential to the growth of each human being are transmitted so that they become adults. As today's Gospel shows us.

Thus, loving others means accepting not to know everything about them, accepting not to understand them 100%. In the words and silence of Mary, of Joseph, who accompany Jesus in his vocation, we discover the depth of a love which knows how to be present for education, to take its share of responsibility, and which also knows how to step aside before the mystery of Jesus so that he can fulfill his personal vocation. Through the image of the Holy Family that we contemplate on this day, we can see here for parents, educators, all people who are responsible for the growth and development of young people today a great school of love. Love yes, love with a capital "A". This pure love, which requires loving without calculating, without expecting in return, without the desire to dominate. This is daily work, a true asceticism which can allow us to discover and measure the love with which God loves us.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW WITH THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS

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