

Sentinelles de l'Aube

CLARISSES DE L'ADORATION PERPÉTUELLE

MONASTÈRE NOTRE DAME DES ANGES TROYES, FRANCE

CHRISTMAS 2009



ISSUE 7

The Wonders and Marvels of that Holiest of Nights

Christmas is a time to enter into the wonder and mystery of God's love for us. It is an invitation to travel back 2000 years into the past and behold the events surrounding the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. With great wonder and amazement, we witness the humility of God, to what extreme He would go to manifest this unconditional love of us.

Behold, a little baby boy born in a little town of Bethlehem who is in fact the King of Angels! Behold the Creator of the entire universe who came to live on earth! Behold Him, whose birth took place in a stable, who was laid in a feeding trough instead of being born in a palace and laid on the finest linen! Behold Him, the Word made flesh... for you!

The shepherds were chosen by God to be the first to hear the announcement of the birth of His Son, Jesus. They were rough, uneducated men, outcasts of society. What does all this tell us about God? What does this tell us about Christmas? What does this tell us about ourselves?

It reminds us that God sees things differently than we do. He sees deep beneath the surface appearances of life. He sees into the very heart of things. Whether a person is well dressed or poorly attired, whether a person is highly educated or not, none of this, in itself, is important or impressive in God's eyes.

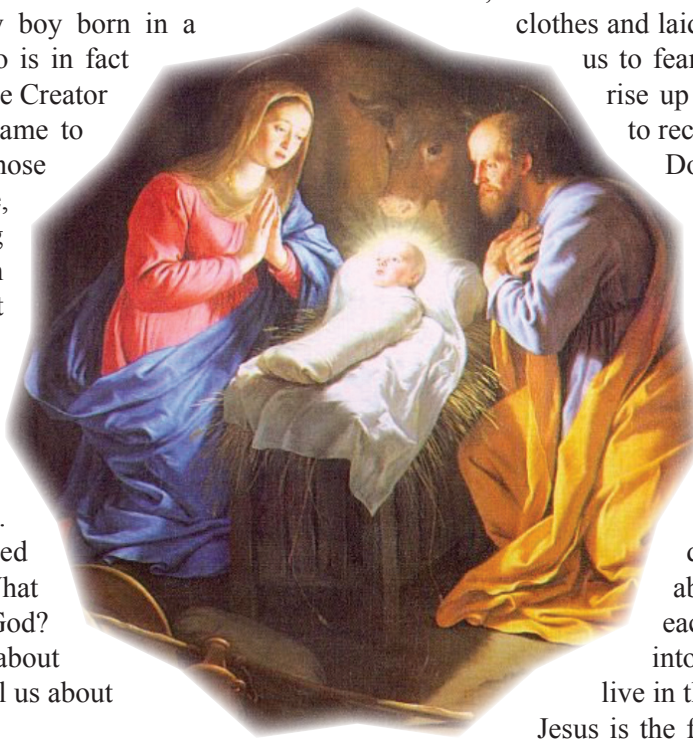
What makes a difference is what is to be found deep down within our human hearts. Is there greed, violence, hatred, anger or jealousy in us? Or is there goodness, gentleness, forgiveness and hope? God sees beauty in a stable, and He can see beauty in any other place as long as

there is goodness present.

Even more so, God does not want to intimidate, frighten or overwhelm us. If that were the case, He would have sent His Son as a mighty warrior at the head of a vast army. Instead of an army, He sends a carpenter, Joseph, and Mary, a young virgin. Instead of a mighty warrior clad in armour, He sends a newborn baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Instead of reducing us to fear and trembling, He inspires us to rise up in love. His little arms are open to receive us with love beyond measure.

Do we really believe that God loves us with all our flaws, faults and shortcomings? Yes, that is the message of Christmas. That is the message of the stable, of the star and the angels. God loves us more than we can ever imagine!

The Gospel for the Mass on Christmas morning reveals to us that Jesus is the light of the world, a light which shines in the darkness, a darkness that was not able to overcome it. (John 1:5) May each of us allow this light to penetrate into the depths of our heart, so as to live in the light of truth. We also hear that Jesus is the fullness of God of which we have all had a share. May God's goodness and strength fill us. Lastly, the Gospel proclaims Jesus as the Word made Flesh, who pitched His tent among us. (John 1:14) He came down from Heaven so that He might abide with us always. Jesus also wants to make a manger of our hearts. He seeks a home in our souls. May His loving presence surround us at all times, and may we recall often His promise, "I am with you always, even until the end of time." May this loving Presence, revealed in the Infant Savior, fill our lives with His hope and His peace.



O Come
let us
adore
Him,



O Come
let us
adore
Him,



Christ the
Lord!

People brought little children to Him, for Him to lay His Hands on them and bless them.... "Let the little children come to Me, for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs." Mt 19, 14



Throughout the day, a stream of people visit our chapel. There are those who come on a regular basis, finding it to be an oasis of prayer, a "refuge" from the noise of the world. There are also the "new arrivals" who learn, through word of mouth, of adoration in our chapel. Men, women and children, young and old alike, take a few minutes out of their busy schedules to spend time in prayer before the Lord.

One Saturday a month we gladly welcome the "Enfants Adorateurs" (Children

Adorers) to our chapel. This young, energetic group is led by two Sisters from the Missionary Family of Our Lady. In a small conference room, the children are first instructed on a particular theme, often taken from the Gospel. Afterwards, they make their way to the chapel, where they spend time in adoration. Gathered together before the Most Blessed Sacrament, these little ones pray and sing to Jesus on bended knee. They present to Him their spontaneous prayers of praise, thanksgiving and supplication. Our chaplain, Moneigneur Savourat, closes the hour with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament

It is a great joy for us, not only to have these young children present in our chapel, but also to witness them so filled with reverence and wonder. In all simplicity and sincerity, they place themselves and their needs before Him. Certainly He is consoled by their loving presence, and cannot resist what is asked of Him!



The Importance of Christmas



through the eyes of a Child

The day of the Christmas presentation finally arrived. One of the participants, a little girl named Theresa, was so excited about her part that her father thought perhaps she was to be one of the main characters, though she had not told him what she was to do. One by one the children took their places, as the audience took their seats. The little shepherds were fidgeting in the corner of the stage, representing the fields for the sheep. Mary and Joseph stood solemnly behind



the manger. In the back three young Wise Men waited impatiently. But still Theresa sat quietly and confidently. Then the teacher began: "One night, a child was born into this world. Mary and

Joseph, the parents of this child, named Him Jesus," she said. "He was born in a stable. Over the stable a bright star appeared." At that cue, Theresa got up from her chair, picked up a large tin-foil star, walked behind Mary and Joseph and held the star up high for everyone to see.

When the teacher told about the shepherds coming to see the baby, the three young shepherds came forward and Theresa jiggled the star up and down excitedly to show them where to come. When the Wise Men responded to their cue, she went forward a little to meet them and to lead the way, her face radiating as bright as the real star might have been.

After the play ended, Theresa ran up to her father, announcing with great joy and satisfaction, "I had the main part!" "You did?" her father questioned, wondering why she thought so. "Yes," she said, "because I showed everybody how to find Jesus!"

How true! To show others how to find Jesus, to be the light for their paths, that is the finest role we can play in life.

Christmas once more and always...

BY MONSEIGNEUR BERNARD SAVOURAT, CHAPLAIN FOR THE POOR CLARES OF TROYES



Each year, we recall that when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the Magi coming from the Orient arrived in Jerusalem saying: "Where is the infant King of Jews? We saw His star rising and we have come to pay Him homage." (Mt. 2:2) They had to set out on an adventure with a single guide: a star in which they placed their trust. The star had led them to Jerusalem, where the Gospel of St. Matthew tells us that the counsellors of Herod searched the Scriptures and found that "the Messiah was to be born at Bethlehem in Judea" (Mt. 2:5). With this prophetic promise and the light of the star, they continued on their way.

Not long after, they arrived at the place where the child has been born. At the sight of the child and His mother, they were overcome with great joy. Falling to their knees, they paid Him homage and offered Him gifts. Afterwards, they withdrew from there, returning to their country by another way.

When we visit a church or a chapel to meet Jesus, there is a "star", a reason which leads us there. We set out, then led by the Word of God, we are able to see Jesus. He whom we do not see with our human eyes, allows us to see with the eyes of faith and become believers.

"This is my Body given up for you!" An interior glance throws us to our knees before Him in adoration. Jesus makes Himself present in the little host, in the Bread to give us life in Him. He tells us, "Take my life!" and live in Him. It's an effort of our faith that He asks. Believing that in adoring Him, in receiving Him in communion, we receive His thoughts and strength to love like Him. In this holy season when we remember His birth in Bethlehem, God as a little child, we can tell Him, "How much you love us!"

In each one's life, there is a before and an after Christmas. In welcoming the presence of Jesus in ourselves, we are changed, we are no longer the same as before. Jesus has come to save us and He stills saves. So, Blessed Christmas! Blessed Emmanuel! God-with-us!



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP US SAVE ON POSTAGE AND PAPER,
PLEASE CONSIDER RECEIVING FUTURE ISSUES OF OUR MONASTERY
NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL.



SEND US YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS AT:
bulletin@clarissedetroyes.org

We are grateful to all our "faithful readers" for their prayers, support and encouragement. May God bless you!



MONASTERE DES CLARISSSES
26 RUE MITANTIER
10000 TROYES, FRANCE

Cold and Frost, bless the Lord!



Ice and snow, bless the Lord!



Give glory and eternal praise to Him!

