



Daily Reflections

December 24, 2017

Scripture

Luke 2: 1-14

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled.

This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town.

And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem,

because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

While they were there,

the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son.

She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock.

The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear.

The angel said to them,

"Do not be afraid;

for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

For today in the city of David
a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.
And this will be a sign for you:
you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes
and lying in a manger."
And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel,
praising God and saying:
"Glory to God in the highest
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Our Scripture Reflection

What a contrast: The lack of compassion from the inn keeper who refused to make room even for a mother with infant child and the loving care of that young mother who gently and lovingly welcomes her infant boy into the world and lays Him in a manger, keeping Him warm by swaddling Him. And the supreme and most joyful irony of all....He Who was placed in a feed trough for domesticated animals would Himself become "The Bread of Life" for the world. Merry Christmas!

Food for your Journey

An expectant mother found herself in premature labor before her daughter was born. She realized she had no crib or bassinet. Anxious, she called her mother on the phone and asked, "Mom, what should I do?"

"You have a dresser, don't you?"

"Yes, you know I do."

"Well, open the middle drawer and take everything out of it. Line it with a blanket, and leave it halfway open. It will be OK. Believe me, with a newborn, that's all you need. We'll see about a crib later."

"How did you know that?"

"Silly girl. That's what I did with you!"

There are other stories about newborns laid in laundry baskets, nestled in beds of comfy towels. The snapshots feature prominently in the photo album later, and inspire some pretty good stories.

In an ideal world, Mary would have wished for better. But, a manger was all she had. She made it work.

A Prayer from the Heart

Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel, You were born in the most humble of ways yet would become the Savior of the world. Amen.