



Daily Reflections

December 31, 2020

Scripture

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.
All things came to be through him,
and without him nothing came to be.
What came to be through him was life,
and this life was the light of the human race;
the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.

A man named John was sent from God.
He came for testimony, to testify to the light,
so that all might believe through him.

He was not the light,
but came to testify to the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world,
and the world came to be through him,
but the world did not know him.

He came to what was his own,
but his own people did not accept him.

But to those who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God,
to those who believe in his name,
who were born not by natural generation

nor by human choice nor by a man's decision
but of God.

And the Word became flesh
and made his dwelling among us,
and we saw his glory,
the glory as of the Father's only-begotten Son,
full of grace and truth.

John testified to him and cried out, saying,
"This was he of whom I said,
'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me
because he existed before me.'"

From his fullness we have all received,
grace in place of grace,
because while the law was given through Moses,
grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God.

The only-begotten Son, God, who is at the Father's side,
has revealed him.

Our Scripture Reflection

Well, here we are...preparing to enter a new year. We are leaving a year that has been filled with anxiety, heartbreak, disappointment and real suffering. But now we are called as we enter 2021 to put aside the past and to look forward with confidence and hope. Today's Gospel offers us a way to do so. John tells us Jesus came to be the Light of the world, to cast out the darkness of sin and suffering and death.

Please, my Friends, bask in His Light. Let Him guide Your way.

Food for your Journey

It's a malady that comes upon most of us every year about this time: the compulsion to change something about our lives, through the peculiar exercise known as the New Year's resolution. Rarely does it work ... at least not in any instantaneous way. There's nothing magic about taking down one wall calendar and putting up another. Real change — change that matters — takes time. It typically proceeds by the cadence of "two steps forward, one step back." It demands bucketloads of support from others. Still, that clean expanse of numbered white boxes — unsullied by the scribbles, cross-outs and erasures of a year of labored living — promises fresh opportunity and renewed hope.

When Jesus came to earth, "the Word became flesh and lived among us." The Word: clean, pure, elemental. Living among us: yes, even us. Human words are a forgettable cacophony of trivia, curses, one-upmanship and pleas for attention. Yet, the Word of God is like that first event inscribed on a pristine calendar page. There it is, arresting the eye. No doubt. No distraction. No ambiguity.

It's no wonder the church has struggled, throughout the centuries, to capture the miracle of Jesus' Incarnation in human terms. We never quite succeed. Our words only sag and break under the weight of sheer divinity — and true humanity.

In the Incarnation, God gives us not mere words but The Word. Resolving, in this new year, to know that singular Word better could make all the difference.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You are forever the Light of the world! As I prepare to leave 2020 and all the sadness and heartache that was contained in those 365 days, give me hope for 2021. With You, Lord, all things are possible. Lord, watch over, protect and guide me and my family. Help me to begin each new day by first seeking Your Light. I beg that You give me all the Grace I need to follow and remain in Your wonderful Light. Amen