



Daily Reflections

December 31, 2016

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

Today's Gospel text from John answers the question: What is the true meaning of Christmas. At Christmas, God became man, really, truly and completely. No other religious system in history has held this belief. What does this belief mean for us? God became a man in order to redeem man. He knows us and understands us completely. The question that remains is: Do we really know Jesus?

Food for your Journey

Jonathan Swift, the 18th-century author of *Gulliver's Travels*, is said to have commented: "We have just enough religion to make us hate one another, but not enough to make us love one another."

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Help me in this coming year to grow closer to You. May I walk with You each and every day. Amen.