

January 7, 2018

Dear Members and Friends of the  
United Independent Catholic Church:

For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Christmas season will come to a close today with the Solemnity of the Epiphany. The parties are over, Christmas packages have been opened and the customary, Christmas dinner have been completed. While these experiences are good and actually necessary, do we truly contemplate the mystery behind the Feast of the Nativity?

We like to romanticize the Virgin Birth with the Holy Family being in a nice cozy cave with the animals breathing to keep the Divine Child warm, the angles singing and the shepherds coming to see the wonder. Let's step back and try to see this through the eyes of the Holy Family. Mary gave her fiat to the mission that God would send her on. Joseph was confused regarding the fact that Mary was with child through the Holy Spirit. Yet it was with faith in God's promise that this young couple began the journey. They had to travel to Bethlehem and they had to beg for a place for Mary to give birth. They found a damp cave with animals in it. Imagine if you will how strong the stench was as well as having no midwife to help with the birth. Not at all a pretty picture. Then after Jesus was born all of a sudden angels were singing and people coming to see their son and then three strange men showing up to give him three gifts that made no sense. I would imagine the Holy Couple were troubled with all that had transpired in a matter of hours. Yet with all of this going on they held steadfastly to the belief that God was with them and that it in time they would be able to grasp their experience.

God so loved the world that He gave His only Son. God's creation was made out of love, by love and for love. He saw human kind worthy of His love and He made that known throughout our salvation history. While He kept all the covenants that He made with our Jewish ancestors, they did not keep faith. The Feast of the Nativity is the culmination of all the covenants that He made with us. Like the Holy Family, we are on a journey of faith that invites us to trust and grow. Like Mary, we might not grasp the whole picture, but that come in time with struggle and doubt and some frustration. Our journey is not unlike the wise men as we also seek this Christ Child. While they gave gifts of Gold, for a King, Incense for a God, and Myrrh for a burial, we come to the Christ Child bringing who we are. We are broken, lost, angry, confused, and empty. In other words we come to the Christ Child naked before Him seeking healing, hope and faith.

My friends God sent his only Son to be our Savior. He was one of us in all things but sin. He proclaimed the Good News to the poor, to prisoners, freedom, and to those in sorrow, joy. While we fit in all of those categories we can be comforted by the fact that, like the Holy Family, we too will come to grasp all the promises that God has given us through the ages.

Take comfort my friends that, while this is a singular journey, we are not alone. We are walking this journey together. We proclaim the Good News to each other and manifest the love that God has for us.

Please know that as I journey in faith I hold each and every one of you in my heart.

Sincerely

+Jerry

Servant

Written on the Solemnity of the Epiphany