

Second Sunday of Advent 2018

My beloved brothers and sisters, the Gospels of Matthew and Luke begin in an odd way: both of them situate them in a genealogy, and in Luke's Gospel, it is situated in a particular time of history, listing particular historical figures. In the times in which we are presently living, these facts are not coincidental to the Gospels, but add to the historical facts of the Gospels! They tell us that Jesus was indeed a historical figure. This is also attested to as well by other historical documents outside of Judaism. The coming of Jesus was a fact; but we must make up our minds about what that fact means in our lives and in our world today. For many today, His coming is simply irrelevant. Is he basically irrelevant to our lives as well; ask yourself, how often do I turn to Him each day?

St. Luke weaves Jesus' coming into the fabric of our own lives by weaving Him into the fabric human history. He is not a myth; rather He stands at the crossroads of human history and our own personal history, and still speaks to us and acts for us in our own personal existence. How we respond to Jesus in our own history will make the difference between heaven and hell for all of eternity; even though there are some in the Church and many in our society who deny the reality of hell- Jesus teaches it and warns us from it! He wants our salvation! Jesus is God made flesh, who wants to be involved in our lives, for by responding to Him and His Divine Action, His Grace, by being conformed to Him in our lives, we are conformed to His eternal life. He desires our friendship, and in friendship with Him, we find the fullness of life and joy, even now!

Pope Benedict, who is one of my personal heroes says: "In these days, the liturgy constantly reminds us that 'God comes to visit his people, to dwell in the midst of men and women and to form a communion of love and life: a family, (in Him).'" To exclude our lives from this desire of God, is to exclude our lives from His Divine Action on our behalf, and to exclude ourselves from His Divine Life. On the other hand, to cooperate with His Divine Action, through constant prayer, especially the Mass and the Holy Rosary, to receive His forgiveness in Confession on a regular basis, generates within us, the Divine Life. So much so, that St. Paul says to us: "I am confident, that the One who began this good work in you, will bring it to

completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” Jesus Christ did not create us, redeem us, save us in order to forget us. He is ever active in us, He never forgets us, He accompanies us, guides us, cajoles us, corrects us, leads us into a deeper and deeper love relationship with Him and all His brothers and sisters. And one of the most preeminent ways He does this, is through the Mother of God, the Mother of all Grace in Jesus Christ, the Mother He gave us to constantly take us by the hand and lead us into His company- thus the great power of the Rosary! By this prayer and its meditations, we are led to the Living Word and the mysteries of our salvation. By doing these things, taking seriously our call to live in Christ in His friendship, by the Sacraments and by constantly working out our Salvation by His means, and by our loving Mother, we break the devils influence, and our daily led more and more into union with Jesus. With that union, we more and more experience His Divine Joy!