

## Nativity of the Lord 2019

My beloved brothers and sisters: it is so easy today, to become caught up in all of the commercialism of the Christmas Season, that we lose sight of the meaning of this incredible Feast Day, the beginning of our salvation in Jesus Christ! Today, we are called to remember and celebrate with awe and wonder this incredible event that is the heart and soul not only of Christmas, but Christianity itself: the incarnation.

It is the simple truth that God came to us to be Emmanuel- the God who remains with us, through a tiny, helpless child, surrendering the omnipotence of His Godhead in order to become a human being like us in all things. It is in this, and the Holy Eucharist that we see the infinite humility of God. It is by ancient tradition the reason why Satan and the apostate angels rebelled against God- they would refuse to worship the Son of God who became the Son of Man!

This mystery also discloses to us the infinite generosity of infinite love for us, that God the Son would strip Himself of the splendor of heaven in order to embrace the full reality of human life, including the fact that He was tempted by sin, like all of us, but remained ever sinless, and suffered like us, and even more. By doing so, He entered into the reality of pain, sorrow, injustice, and the suffering of this fallen world, included the consequences of sin which is death. By doing so, God says to each one of us: "I haven't given up on you; I have embraced you!" By doing so, God tells us: My love is more powerful than the world's selfishness. My light is brighter than all of the darkness of the world and your lives. My love is always faithful in the midst of your infidelities. My wisdom is deeper than all of your doubts. My goodness is greater and more infinite than the whole of the Universe! No, God has not given up on us, and He never will, that is why Jesus is called Savior!

Pope Benedict was once asked: "What did Jesus actually bring? We still have ward, we still get sick and die, we all suffer, what did He really bring?" Pope Benedict answered: "Jesus brings us God!" He brings us God, right into the midst of all of these things, and He does so in His very flesh! That is the mystery of the Incarnation, and that is the mystery of the Holy Eucharist, wherein we shall

receive Him in His very flesh and blood; wherein God the Word, once again becomes flesh our food for eternal life! Once again, the infinite humility of God is made manifest in the God, who not only becomes a man like us in all things except sin, but becomes flesh and blood for us in His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Bread and Wine consecrated and forever changed into Himself! This is the meaning of what we celebrate in Christmas!