

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirin'i-us was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!" (Luke 2:1-14 ~ RSV translation)



Blessings for a Merry Christmas!

**SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL + 212 EAST BROAD STREET + COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215
(614) 224-1295 + WWW.SAINTJOSEPHCATHEDRAL.ORG**

SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL

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+ **Most Reverend James A. Griffin, J.C.L., J.D.,**
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STAFF

Mr. Michael Agriesti

Business Manager; magriesti@saintjosephcathedral.org

Ms. Carol Stollenwerk

Administrative Assistant; cstollenwerk@saintjosephcathedral.org

Ms. Bobbie Meyers

PT Administrative Assistant; rmeyers@saintjosephcathedral.org

Mr. Jake Neal

Director of RCIA and Religious Education;
jneal@saintjosephcathedral.org

Dr. Richard K. Fitzgerald

Director of Music;
richardkfitzgerald@gmail.com

Ms. Nicole Simental

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Wedding Coordinator; carrie.boor@gmail.com

Mr. Phil Renico

Maintenance

Mr. Devan Kline

Maintenance

PRAYER INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS: DECEMBER

Evangelization – In the Service of the Transmission of Faith: That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

SCHEDULING MASS INTENTIONS

One of the greatest acts of charity is to pray for the living and the dead, and the greatest and most powerful prayer we have is the Mass since the fruits of the Mass are the very fruits of Jesus' redemption. Mass stipends (offerings) are \$10.00 each; only one offering per Mass. All Masses are scheduled by calling the Parish Office during regular business hours; intentions will be listed in the Sunday bulletin.

REGULAR SCHEDULE OF MASSES, LITURGIES, SACRAMENTS

Sunday Vigil Mass (Saturday) 5:15 p.m.

Sunday Masses:

8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 5:15 p.m.

Weekday Masses:

Monday through Friday: 7:30 a.m. and 12:05 p.m.;
also Wednesday evening at 5:15 p.m.

Masses on Holy Days of Obligation and on Holidays
are listed well in advance in our bulletin and on our web page.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Tuesday: 10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Wednesday: 5:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

Thursday: 10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

TWO WEEKLY HOLY HOURS

Wednesday, 5:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

Thursday, 10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.;
closed Saturdays, Sundays, and on major holidays.

NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION

Welcome to Saint Joseph Cathedral! To become a registered member you can pick up a form by the main entrance of our historic church, stop by the Sacristy after Mass, visit our web site, or contact us through the parish office. Welcome!

THE SACRAMENTS

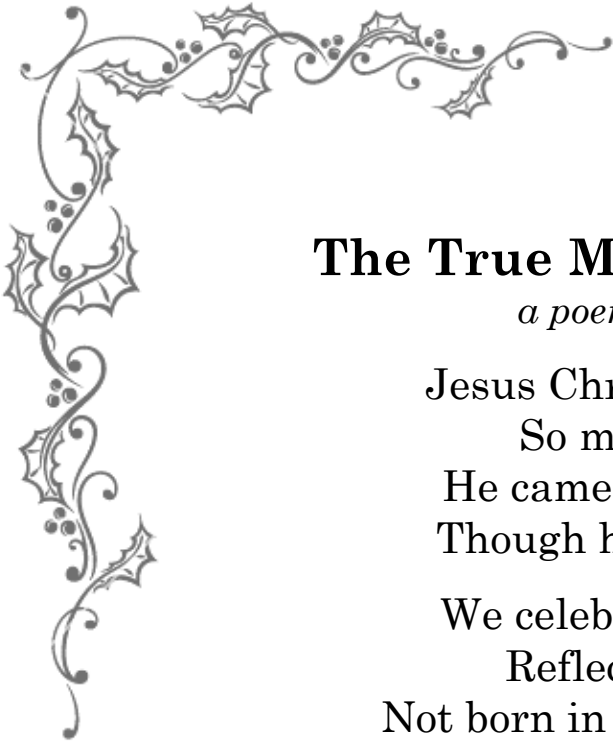
Baptism, Confession, First Communion, Confirmation, Matrimony, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders. Please visit our web page (www.saintjosephcathedral.org) about all seven Sacraments available at Saint Joseph Cathedral, including contact information, necessary preparations, and scheduling.

DAILY FOOD DISTRIBUTION AT THE CATHEDRAL

To support us in feeding the poor and needy, donate via the Poor Box in the Cathedral (by the Broad Street doors) or please call the Parish Office at (614) 224-1295.

CATHEDRAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Concert schedule: visit www.cathedralmusic.org



The True Meaning of Christmas

a poem by M.S. Lowndes

Jesus Christ was born this day
So many years before
He came a servant to the lost
Though he was Lord of Lords.

We celebrate this joyous time
Reflecting on His birth
Not born in a mansion, but a stable
As if He had no worth.

He came so He could identify
With the human heart of man
And gave His life as a sacrifice
Offering a better plan.

A plan that reconciles us back
To our loving Father God.
Bringing hope and redemption from
Sins ruling iron rod.

For this is the only reason that we
Should celebrate this day,
To become focused on anything else,
Would take the meaning away.

So let's arise with joy in our hearts
And share it with everyone
The meaning of Christmas will always be
The birth of Jesus – God's son.

From the Rector...

AS WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR AND REDEEMER, we sing “Hark! the herald angels sing, ‘Glory to the newborn King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!’” For it was the angels who first came to those who were humble and ready to receive and serve the newborn King – Christ the King who was born in poverty, and whose parents, Joseph and Mary, could find no room in the inn; Christ who was born in a manger made for feeding animals. God sent His Son, Jesus, to blaze the path of humbleness, love and peace in this world as the Good Shepherd and King who would lay down His life for our sake and for our salvation. Many ask, on this day in particular, why was it necessary for the Word of God to become flesh? The child Jesus, conceived Mary’s womb, the fulfillment of all God’s promises, was named “Jesus” which means “the Lord saves.” And what would Jesus save us from? Matthew’s Gospel makes this abundantly clear – “He will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). God sent His Son into the world because we needed a Savior who could reconcile us with God. Remember, it was our ancestors in the Old Testament who bore the image of God and yet disregarded God, who gave God inadequate attention, who mistreated each other, who institutionalized injustice, and who (conveniently or otherwise) misunderstood the laws and commands of God. Even though God spoke through the Prophets, our ancestors persisted in living their misguided ways. So Love and Truth personified – the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ – came into the world to save us from our all too human ways, and to follow the divine way – the light of Christ leading us and illuminating a path of salvation in a dark and sinful world. Throughout the ages Christians have professed this salvific truth in the Nicene Creed: “For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.” And so Christ, the light of the world, was among the children of God – His brothers and sisters – teaching right from wrong, teaching how to live one’s life as children of God, and as brothers and sisters in Christ, to simply reflect love of God and love of neighbor in one’s thoughts, words and actions. And yet our ancestors crucified Christ on the cross; Christ undertook this great sacrifice for our sake. Jesus, the eternal Word of Truth, Love and Light, became flesh for us so that He could offer His life as a sacrifice for the sins of the world through the shedding of His blood on the cross! The Word became flesh to show each of us the infinite love and tender mercy of God for us sinners. God raised his Son from the dead, so that we may share in His eternal life. God wants to fill our hearts with true and lasting joy as we show our gratitude for the greatest gift He could possibly give us – His beloved Son. Let us adore Him by embracing the way, the truth and the life of Christ, and “Be doers of the Word, not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22). Folks, the joy of Christmas is not just for one day or one season – it is an eternal joy experienced by those who listen to Him, humble ourselves before Him, embrace Him, and follow Him. May all of us experience this life of true joy, peace, happiness and contentment in Christ beginning today.

- **SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS...** Please join me in thanking all who cleaned and decorated our Cathedral church so beautifully for Christmas, our musicians and choir for their added work and preparation, our various ministers, lectors and servers, and all who dedicated their time and God-given talents to making this Christmas a truly joyous day of celebration for you and for everyone joining us at the Cathedral. Special thanks as well to all who supported this year’s Cathedral Giving Tree which benefitted the children at the Saint Vincent Family Center and our brothers and sisters in Christ served by the Joint Office for Inner-city Needs (JOIN). The photo in the center of this bulletin speaks of the caring generosity of those who participated in the Giving Tree.
- **SPECIAL PRAYERS THIS CHRISTMAS...** We sometimes forget that there are many who are away from family and friends during Christmas – our service men and women who may be stationed anywhere around the world or deployed to areas of combat and conflict; our firefighters, EMT’s and police officers who work shifts to keep us safe; hospitals cannot close simply because it is a holiday, and so doctors, nurses and hospital staffs are tending to the medical needs of patients (who also cannot be home at Christmas); there are utility crews making sure that our electricity is generated and maintained sufficiently for our Christmas decorations, natural gas workers making sure our houses are warm and stay that way, water companies make sure that this basic necessity of life is flowing, and phone companies are keeping everything in working order so that people can call and wish others a “Merry Christmas.” Hotel and restaurant staffs are working to keep visitors comfortable and fed during their Christmas visits; transportation workers keep everything moving so that we have what we need in our stores; airport, airline, rail, bus and taxi employees are always on the job, as are newspaper, television and radio staffs. There are many other people doing all kinds of work around the clock who may not be home at Christmas at the time they want, or at all. There are many people in the world separated by war and conflict, refugees who have fled war, civil unrest, poverty and more and who are striving to find the peace of Christ this Christmas – they especially need our prayers. Bottom line, for one reason or another not all family members and friends can be together at Christmas as we would like and as they certainly would like, and so we pray that wherever they are, whatever they are doing, may they enjoy the blessings that this Christmas Day – the birth of Christ – offers to each and every one of us.

From all of us at the Cathedral... abundant blessings and Merry Christmas!

~ Fr. Mike Lumpe

***The poinsettia flowers decorating Saint Joseph Cathedral
this Christmas are “in honor of” or “in memory of”
the persons who names follow. Please remember them,
and their benefactors, in your prayers.***

Living and Deceased Monks and Brothers
of the Abbey of the Genesee, the Abbey of
Gethsemani, and New Melleray Abbey
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

In Memory of Garritt and Ruth Adema
donated by Mr. Brett Adema

In Honor of Alba and Tesita
donated by Beatriz and Pablo Gamboa

In Memory of Marilyn and Larry Allen
donated by Mr. Brett Adema

In Memory of Branden Allen
donated by Mr. Brett Adema

Living and Deceased Members of the
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donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

In Memory of Juan and Leonora Austria
donated by Pacis Family

In Honor of
Marine Sgt. Charles Dallas Bannerman
donated by Florence T. Bannerman

In Memory of Sister M.G.C. Bastian
anonymous donor

In Memory of the
Bateman and Tangler Families
donated by Mr. and Mrs. Franklin L. Bateman

In Memory of Bob Beck
donated by Mr. Frank J. Ruddy

Living and Deceased Members
of the Blaser Family
donated by Richard and Shirley Lumpe

In Memory of Father Lawrence Boucher
donated by Mr. Jerome R. Milliner

In Memory of Deceased Members of the
Brower and Lindsley Families
donated by Mr. and Mrs. Carl F. Merhar

In Memory of LaVerne E. Bryant
donated by Florence T. Bannerman

In Honor of Fr. Raymond-Marie Bryce, O.P.
and Fr. Patrick Hyde, O.P.
donated by Nicole Simental

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donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

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donated by John (Jack) Buttler

In Memory of Donald Joseph Butts
donated by Mary Butts

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of the Buttler Family
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In Memory of Joseph and Marie Butts
donated by Mary Butts

In Honor of Mary, Brian and Karen Butts
donated by Mary Butts

In Memory of Robert Anthony Butts
donated by Mary Butts

In Honor of Bishop Frederick F. Campbell
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In Memory of Joseph N. Capretta
donated by John and Lisa Emrich

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donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

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donated by Mrs. Sherri A. Dembinski

In Honor of Sherri Dembinski
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donated by Mrs. Marilyn Dono

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In Honor of the James Cancer Center and
Martha Morehouse Oncology and Medical Staffs
and Wexner Medical Staffs
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60th Wedding Anniversary
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of the Mann and Wisniewski Families
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Color Center Spread – Giving Tree

Color Center Spread – Giving Tree

In Memory of Paulis and Alice Martin
donated by Mary Butts

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donated by Mr. and Mrs. Michael A. Wagner

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donated by Miss Noelle Quigley

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donated by Pacis Family

In Memory of Pedro and Isabel Pacis
donated by Pacis Family

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and Religious in the Diocese of Columbus
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

In Memory of the Deceased Members
of the Prunte and Dannhandt Families
donated by Dominic Prunte

In Memory of John E. Prunte
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donated by Miss Patricia A Perry

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Cathedral Organist Emerita
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In Honor of Riverside Radiation Oncology
donated by Patricia Kennedy Kehl

In Memory of Helena Romanuik
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In Memory of Msgr. James L.T. Ruef
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donated by Florence T. Bannerman

In Honor of the Saint Joseph Cathedral Clergy,
Staff, Volunteers, Ministers, Parishioners,
Choir Members, Musicians, Seminarians
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

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In Honor of Saint Joseph Cathedral Members
donated by Helen Leppla

In Honor of our Saint Joseph Cathedral Priests
donated by Helen Leppla

In Honor of the Sanchez Family
donated by Pablo Sanchez

In Memory of Francis Santana. Jr.
donated by Yanet Santana

In Memory of Alice and John Schafer
donated by the Krisiewicz Family

In Memory of Ryan Schafer
donated by the Krisiewicz Family

In Memory of Msgr. George Schlegel
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

In Memory of Fr. Ronald Schmelzer
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

In Memory of Fr. Harold Schneider
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In Memory of Msgr. Robert E. Schneider
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

Barry and Mary Jo Schreiber and Family
donated by Richard and Shirley Lumpe

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Christmas Season

Saint Joseph Cathedral + 212 East Broad Street + Columbus, Ohio 43215 + (614) 224-1295

The Deeper Meaning of Christmas

by Marcellino D'Ambrosio, Ph.D.

In the days of Caesar Augustus, an era of peace was established in the Mediterranean world after centuries of strife. But this peace was forged by the proud ambition of emperors and the edge of their armies' swords.

Upon this stage appears a baby acclaimed as king by eastern dignitaries. Neither Caesar nor Herod will brook any rivals. So brutal hordes are sent to slay Him at birth, though He himself comes without armies. The thugs are thwarted, but only for a season. For the royal child is laid in a manger, and the wood of that manger foreshadows the wood of the cross.

Caesar and Herod were bound to misunderstand Him. They climbed their way to the top, stepping on all who stood in their way. He emptied himself and plunged to the bottom, from the glory of heaven to the squalor of a stable. Pharaohs and Caesars strained towards immortality. Yet He who was Immortal by nature embraced mortality. The great ones of the world took every opportunity to exalt themselves. In the very act of being born, He humbled himself.

You would think that He would have chosen Rome or Athens as the place of his appearance. But He selects an obscure desert town in a dusty provincial outpost. Even in this humble spot, not even a seedy inn would make room for Him. So they had recourse to a cave, welcomed only by the animals. Isaiah said it well: "an ox knows its owner, and an ass its master's manger; but Israel does not know, my people has not understood" (Isaiah 1:2).

Everything was in fulfillment of Scripture. He was born in Bethlehem, a town whose name means "house of bread." His crib was a manger, a feeding trough. But they did not understand that He was the Bread of Life. He was wrapped, like Solomon, in swaddling clothes (Wisdom 7:4-5), but they did not recognize him as the new King and embodiment of divine wisdom.

The only people who recognize Him are shepherds, the humblest in society, and Magi, the wisest. But most Israelites, like us, were neither very humble nor very wise, so they missed it. They especially missed this—that one of the birthday gifts was incense, used in the worship of gods. He was not only king, wise man, messiah, and savior—he was God incarnate.

How could Jews have believed this? God is infinite, invulnerable, and omnipotent. What is more vulnerable, fragile, and helpless than an infant? Can the Eternal be born in time? Can the Divine Word be a child at the breast, incapable of speech? Can a mere teenage girl be the Mother of God?

It was just as hard for the pagans to believe it. For their philosophers had taught that God is spirit and the body is a prison. Salvation means liberation from the confines of the physical body. So the idea that a divine Savior would embrace human flesh just did not compute.

Love sometimes does strange things. It takes great risks and goes to extreme lengths that many would call foolish. On that first Christmas day, God's foolishness was wiser than men, and his weakness was stronger than men. It took them all by surprise.

But this, of course, was part of God's strategy. The element of surprise is critical in warfare. And Christmas was an act of warfare. In fact it was D-Day, the day of deliverance. The preparation had taken centuries, but now it was time for the Conqueror to land on enemy occupied territory. He came in humility, and would finish the conquest thirty years later by the greatest act of humility the world had ever seen.


"Peace on Earth, Good will towards men." True peace can never be forged by steel, but only by love. It is the humble babe in the manger, not Caesar in his chariot, who is the real Prince of peace.

This article is made available courtesy of The Catholic Exchange.

The Night Before Christmas

BY SISTER ST. THOMAS, B.N.D. DE N

A more spiritual version of the famous Christmas story



*'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the town,
St. Joseph was searching, walking up roads and down;
Our Lady was waiting, so meek and so mild,
While Joseph was seeking a place for the Child;*

*The children were nestled, each snug in their beds,
The grown-ups wouldn't bother, there's no room they said;
When even the innkeeper sent them away,
Joseph was wondering, where they would stay;*

*He thought of the caves in the side of the hills,
Let's go there said Mary, it's silent and still;
The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow,
Made pathways of light for their tired feet to go;*

*And there in a cave, in a cradle of hay,
Our Savior was born on that first Christmas Day!
The Father was watching in heaven above,
He sent for His angels, His couriers of love;*


*More rapid than eagles God's bright angels came;
Rejoicing and eager as each heard his name;
Come Power, Come Cherubs, Come Virtues, Come Raphael,
Come Thrones and Dominions, come Michael and Gabriel;*

*Now fly to the Earth, where My poor people live,
Announce the glad tiding My Son comes to give;
The Shepherds were watching their flocks on this night,
And saw in the heavens and unearthly light;*

*The Angels assured them, they'd nothing to fear,
It's Christmas they said, the Savior is here!
They hastened to find Him, and stood at the door,
Till Mary invited them in to adore;*

*He was swaddled in bands from His head to His feet,
Never did the Shepherds see a baby so sweet!
He spoke not a word, but the shepherds all knew,
He was telling them secrets and blessing them too;*

*Then softly they left Him, The Babe in the hay,
And rejoiced with great joy on that first Christmas Day;
Mary heard them exclaim as they walked up the hill,
Glory to God in the Highest, Peace to men of good will!*



Christmas Season

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Making our Hearts a Crib

By Fr. Roger Landry

St. John Vianney always loved the major feasts of our faith, but Christmas in particular filled him with extraordinary joy. In the tiny baby Jesus lying in the manger; the Curé of Ars saw enfolded the amazing extent of God's love and the central lines of his plan to save us. St. John Vianney's amazement at God's presence with us in the world, however, didn't stop there. It grew in three successive stages, corresponding to what he viewed as three different stages of God's humility: first, in the Lord's sharing our human nature; second, in his coming into our world as a little baby; and third, in his being born in abject poverty.

More than becoming man or entering our world as an infant, St. John Vianney was most stupefied at the Lord's mercy in being born in indigence. "Stable, crib, swaddling clothes represent the greatest poverty," he said, "the poverty of dwelling, the poverty of the way of living. The kings and emperors of this world are born in palaces" and yet the Son of God was born in one of the most impoverished manners available. That provoked the patron saint of priests to ask, "Why did he choose poverty?" The answer, he discovered in prayer, was so that Jesus could be even closer to us.

"Poverty is our very existence. How poor and helpless is even the rich man," Vianney preached. "Therefore the Savior wanted to be nearer to the poor man; that is why he appeared upon this earth in the utmost poverty." He used another great image to show us why. "When Cyrus had vanquished the Persians by the sword he possessed dominion over them, but when he wished to win the hearts of the Persians, he clothed himself as a Persian. That is how our Savior wished to win our hearts. He took upon Himself our weakness, our lowliness, our poverty, so as to approach us as nearly as possible as a poor child."

The "great sermon" that Jesus preached in the poor stable and proclaimed from the poor crib was, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3). Jesus' voluntary embracing of poverty inaugurates that new kingdom. "Through Him, the Son of God, poverty is no longer despicable, no longer shameful, no longer mean; through Him is poverty ennobled, exalted and sanctified." The poor, coming to kneel at the crib, find the "only thing" that can bring them happiness in their poverty: Christ himself, the Savior, born poor like them. The rich, coming to that same crib, recognize that possessions and money cannot redeem them or make them free; only Christ can.

That's why St. John Vianney encouraged all his listeners to make their hearts into a poor crib so that "we may have a dwelling that we can offer to the divine Savior. He seeks and desires a dwelling of poverty, so that he may return into our hearts." That's the humble path by which the divine Savior will "take possession of us" and fill our hearts with "that message of joy and peace to men of good will upon the earth."

St. John Vianney's heart was always a crib poor in spirit that solicited and treasured the presence of the King of Kings. This Christmas he doubtless intercedes from heaven so that the earthen vessels of our hearts might become just as enriched.

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