

Of Seeds and Flowers

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William R. Pfeiffer - Director

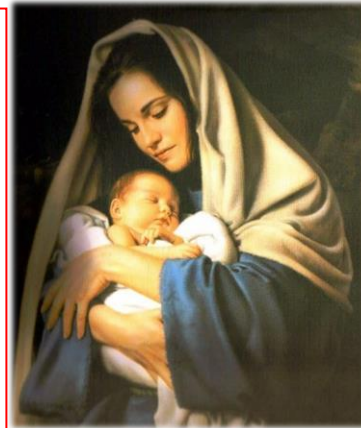
Mary's Field, Ltd. - PO Box 99 - Hebron, CT 06248 - 860.530.1253 - wisdom@marysfield.org

Merry Christmas



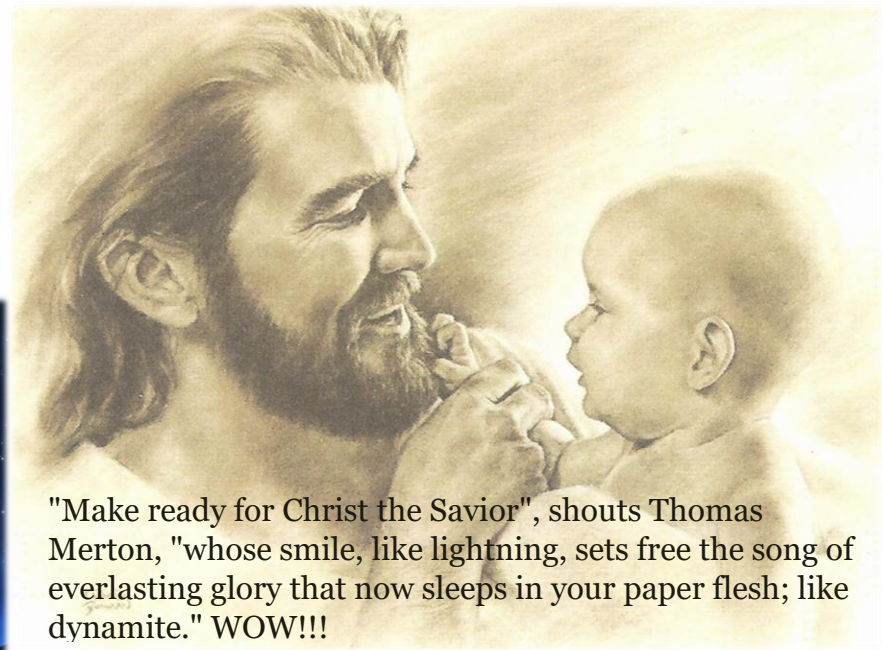
"I was the first tabernacle. The Holy Body grew within me first."

Mary spoke these words to the visionaries at Medjugorje. Mary also told the visionaries that if they ever find themselves having to choose between seeing her in an apparition, or celebrating the Eucharist, they should ALWAYS CHOOSE MASS.



It began with the simple cry of a baby...And grew into a shout of good news that echoed through the ages... Christ is born! - anew in your heart?

"The Incarnation is like a dagger thrust into the sheath of human history." Hoskyns

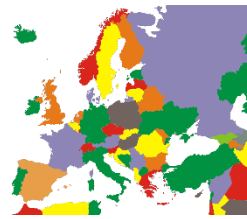


"Make ready for Christ the Savior", shouts Thomas Merton, "whose smile, like lightning, sets free the song of everlasting glory that now sleeps in your paper flesh; like dynamite." WOW!!!

"And the Word became flesh (flesh is SARX in

Greek. It means fleshy, dripping with humanity flesh), and lived among us." (John1:14) "Lived among us" might be more correctly translated as "he pitched his tent with us." The Greek verb *literally means "to put on skin"*. It refers to the skins from which tents were made in the ancient world. **OUR GOD PUTS ON SKIN, LIVES IN OUR SKIN, UNDERSTANDS OUR SKIN, CELEBRATES OUR SKIN.** We live in an **INCARNATIONAL RELIGION**. - the eternal word of God became flesh in Jesus of Nazareth, and in His life, his ministry, suffering, dying, and rising he healed and transformed the human experience into a holy path for our lives. Jesus embraced human life and loved it and is a constant waterfall of love for YOUR LIFE ON EARTH!

At Christmas we have the chance to stop the process of **de-christianization** in our own hearts by allowing the Child, the reality of God to be reborn in our hearts. *"I choose everything, my God, I do not want to be a saint by halves. I am not afraid to suffer for your sake; I only fear doing my own will, so I give it to You and choose everything you will."* - St. Teresa of Lisieux.



"Europe has already been DE-Christianized. America is in the process of **dechristianization.**" wrote Pope Benedict XVI. Our bishops and shepherds cower in silence! And silent about the 3400 parishes without a resident priest. The bishops are always having meetings (feel good, hug each other) where they decide nothing can be done or produce long documents that no one reads. Their silence is deafening!



He who has no Christ in his heart will never find Christmas under a tree.

Each one of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus.



"Some day after we have mastered the winds, the waves, the tides, and gravity, we will harness for God the energies of love, and then, for the second time in the history of the world, we will have discovered fire." - Pierre Teilhard de Chardin



We are all united to the Child who is born but only some people know it! SAD!!



"Today I will pay myself a visit. I do hope I'm at home." Awareness!!



EVERYTHING HAS CONSEQUENCES. EVERYTHING!!



The following quote is from King George the VI's Christmas address to the British people in war-year 1939. His very wise words fit our nation's present cultural decline in 2023. *"A new year is at hand. We cannot tell what it will bring. If it brings peace, how thankful we shall be. If it brings continued struggle, we shall remain undaunted. In the meantime I feel that we may all find a message of encouragement in the lines which, in my closing words, I should like to say to you: "I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the year, give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." and he replied, **"Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be better than light, and safer than a known way."***

The same King George in this same most celebrated Christmas broadcast at the beginning of W.W. II, had said, *"I believe from my heart that the cause which binds together my peoples, and our gallant and faithful allies is the cause of Christian civilization."* His daughter believed it, too. At his coronation- and hers- at the heart of the service, the Sovereign is given a copy of the Holy Bible, with the words: *"We present you with this book, the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is wisdom: This is the Royal Law; these are the lively Oracles of God."* Elizabeth II, not as a matter of form, but as a matter of faith, said "Amen" to that. (From the book "Elizabeth"- an intimate portrait by Gyles Brandreth, page 167)



In Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, the young girl tumbles down a rabbit hole and finds herself in a strange, upside-down world. At one point in her adventures, she comes to a place where several roads diverge. She stands before a confusing jumble of signs pointing in different directions. "Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?" Alice asked the Cheshire cat who was sitting in a tree nearby.

"That depends a good deal on where you want to get to," the smiling cat said. "I don't care much where," replied Alice. "Then it doesn't matter much way you go." Said the cat.

Knowing where you are and where you want to go is of great consequence, especially for the time after YOU leave planet earth. WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS? If you don't know who you ARE or where you are GOING any road will get you there and you won't know when you have arrived. In four generations no one will remember your name. -even at Christmas!

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man
I would do my part;
Yet what I can, I give Him -
Give my heart.



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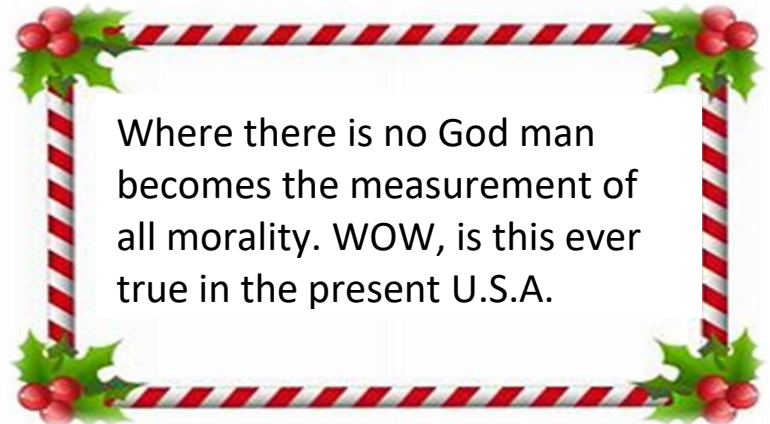
A wise man was once asked what he would do if he had all the power in the world. He answered: "I would make words go back to their original meaning. I think I would do the same with the word TRUTH. - and Christmas!

Wishing you all the Blessings
of Christmas
from Mary's Field!!



"If prayer is not already a joy for you, then start slowly. If you force yourself, you will succumb to weakness and get discouraged." Mirjana Soldo "My Heart Will Triumph"

To pray is to meet Jesus just as to swim is to be in water. We are made for religious experiences.



Where there is no God man becomes the measurement of all morality. WOW, is this ever true in the present U.S.A.

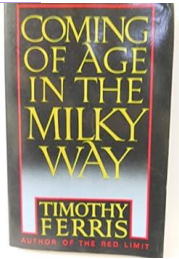
"The reason I was born, born, BORN, the reason why I came into the world, is to bear witness to the **TRUTH**. Any one COMMITTED TO THE TRUTH hears my voice." -words of Jesus at the Last Supper, which Supper was serious TRUTH TIME! Born, BORN, **BORN**, Exist, Manger, Nativity, Incarnation, Christmas, Bethlehem, Shepherds etc. The reason He came into the world and YOUR LIFE, my life, was to testify to the TRUTH. "I, I, I, am the Way, the TRUTH, and the LIFE." Get 'TRUTHIFIED'.



"ANY who did accept Him He empowered to become CHILDREN OF GOD." (JOHN 1:12) Can you imagine anyone rejecting an invitation to become one of the King's Kids.



In his book "Coming of Age in the Milky Way" science writer Timothy Ferris reminds us that the greatest scientific accomplishment of the 20th Century was "the discovery of ignorance".



The wonder of Christmas is that the God who dwelt among us now can dwell within us. The fire inside us comes from the way God made us, namely, TO CRAVE THE INFINITE AND to keep everything else in its proper place.



The misguided search for happiness is the HUMAN PREDICTAMENT that Jesus came to fix. Through many, many teachings He taught us that, if we listen, happiness can be found ONLY in the experience of UNION with GOD and that this experience unites us to everyone else in the human family and to ALL REALITY. WE ARE SO SLOW!! -or obstinate! Proud!! Filled with self! Busy!

"You are not a human being in search of a spiritual experience. You are a spiritual being immersed in a human experience." Pierre Teilhard de Chardin GIVE IN!!

THE FOUR STAGES OF LIFE

1. You believe in Santa Claus
2. You don't believe in Santa Claus
3. You are Santa Claus
4. You look like Santa Claus

Jesus was an unplanned pregnancy! Mary was an unwed mother! I wonder what Planned UN-PARENTHOOD of Nazareth would have encouraged?



Jesus said to Peter, "Do you love me?" Not are you thinking about loving me? Are you planning to love me? Or are you trying to find time to love Me? "DO YOU LOVE ME?"

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