

SAID ED December 21, 2014

A Savior!

Every Christmas I read this reminder that came in my mail several years ago. It's a great reminder of the "reason for the season" as the Knights of Columbus say. If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent an educator. If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist. If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent an economist. If our greatest need had been for physical strength, God would have sent a body builder. But since our greatest need was forgiveness, God sent a savior.

A Christmas card says it so well:

He became like us, so that we could become like Him.

Angels still sing and the star still beckons.

He loves each one of us like there was only one of us to love

If you take a slice of cherry pie and put it on a plate next to the pie, chances are the ingredients in the slice are the same as the ingredients in the pie. This makes sense to us. But what is more difficult to grasp is that we have the "same ingredients" as God. We are made in the image and likeness of God. We've heard that many times. But think about it some more. God is love, and so are we. Love made us like Itself. Beauty made us beautiful. Holiness made us holy. Perfection made us perfect. We are a slice of God. We have the same DNA as God. We are an extension of God's presence. We are the radiance of God. God is the light of the world, and so are we. Our function as the light of the world is to forgive. If we are truly love, than we hold no grievances. To be true to ourselves, we forgive ourselves and others, and have no grievances. Love and grievances are mutually exclusive. This blanket forgiveness of ourselves and others on a daily basis brings us peace and happiness. And it brings peace to the world. To forgive and be at peace is a choice we can make every day. If we don't do it, God isn't upset, God is patient and waits for us. But why not do it, since our own happiness depends on it?

This time of year also sees large numbers of folks join us for Mass. I know the temptation is to ask, "Where are they all the rest of the year?" – But I ask you to rejoice that so many people seek out a place where they are welcome and warmly received as friends and family. Please be part of the welcoming process and help our visitors feel the presence of Christ in our hospitality. We never really know what brings that tentative stranger to "your pew." They may be looking for just what we can offer them – a relationship in the Lord. How we receive folks on "high holy days" can be the reason why they return or feel shunned and not very welcome. Please join our Staff, Parish and Finance Councils, Liturgy Team, Stewardship and various Committees in welcoming our many visitors to this week's celebrations. It's part of our job as members of this community!

Enjoy this last week of Advent!
