

And the Word was made Flesh

Advent and Christmas are holy seasons calling to mind the Incarnation of the Son of God in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the mystery of His Holy Childhood at Nazareth and Bethlehem. Two places are highlighted: the Holy House of Loreto, and the stable at Bethlehem.

There is no shrine more holy in all the world than the Holy House translated from Nazareth to Loreto Italy by Angels. In this house, Saint Joachim and Saint Anne raised their Child Mary. In the fullness of time God sent the Archangel Gabriel to the house at Nazareth, to announce to the Blessed Virgin the great mystery of the Incarnation. Every day the Church announces this event three times in the Angelus:

“The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary, and She conceived of the Holy Spirit.”

“Behold, the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done unto me according to Your Word.”

“And the Word was made Flesh, and dwelt among us.”

In these holy seasons of Advent and Christmas we can “retreat” in spirit to the Holy House where the human life of Our Lord began when “the Word became Flesh” at the Annunciation. The original conception of Jesus, together with the Immaculate Conception (December 8th), dogmatically teach that life begins at conception.

On December 10th we celebrate the Holy House with the feast of Our Lady of Loreto. It is also the 97th anniversary of the announcement of the *Five First Saturdays*, when the holy Child Jesus told Sister Lucia “to have compassion on the Heart of your Most Holy Mother surrounded by the thorns with which men afflict her at every moment”.

For us, in the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima, we commemorated, in 2022, two important jubilees: the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Blue Army (October 1947) by Monsignor Harold Colgan and Mr. John Haffert, and the 50th anniversary of the death of Monsignor Colgan (April 16, 1972). On the First Friday and First Saturday, we will offer Masses of Thanksgiving in memory of Monsignor Colgan and John Haffert for the Blue Army’s foundation, and for all the blessings and graces we have received through the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary.

We are now in the days of the fulfillment of the remaining prophecies Our Lady revealed in the third secret on July 13, 1917. These prophecies include the world-wide domination of Communism, the overt persecution of the Church, and the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. As we enter into more intense battles with the ‘principalities and powers of darkness’, we have words of wisdom from Father Harold V. Colgan, delivered on January 15, 1950, but even more appropriate for us in 2022. His words are timeless and consoling.

“There are two great truths which shall never fail until time is no more: the promise of Our Divine Redeemer that the Church which He founded for the salvation of mankind shall outlast all human institutions, that it shall endure until this earth is destroyed; and secondly, the prophecy of our Blessed Mother, “from henceforth all generations shall call me Blessed.”

In times of persecution when the cause of religion is drenched in the blood of martyrs, when sinister forces hatched in the minds of wicked men prompted by evil spirits seem on the point of

exterminating all that is good, true and beautiful, it is then we remember the promises of Jesus and the prophecy of Mary. No power however tremendous, however diabolical, can change these two immutable truths. Though God's priests be scattered, and His churches closed, though the bells no longer ring, nor the white Host be raised aloft, nor the golden Chalice gleam on high, yet Jesus still reigns with Mary by His Side.

At such dark times, it is not surprising that Our Lady leaves the heavenly scenes and comes back to earth, to strengthen and console the good, to crush the evil serpent under foot and confuse the wicked tyrants. Amidst the storm clouds, the rainbow of her maternal love shines on the hillsides and valleys, streaming across the face of the earth. The afflicted look up with hope in their hearts and the haughty villains who would destroy Christianity, root and branch, are uneasy on their thrones of power. The handwriting is on the wall, the day of retribution is approaching for the enemies of God.

Today the godless armies of evil and error are arrayed as never before against the Christian hosts of virtue and truth. Even in the infancy of the Church when paganism fought a cruel and relentless campaign to destroy Christianity, the conflict was not so formidable as it is in our own times. For now, the powers of darkness strive not to uphold their pagan deities but to exterminate all forms of religion, to deny the very existence of the Almighty Creator. The battle is not restricted to one imperial city or state but waged around the globe... the powerhouse of atheistic propaganda and subversive intrigue is reaching forth to enslave all mankind as it has already enslaved the Christian nations surrounding Russia.

Arranged against this monstrous regime, Christ's underworld is constantly and valiantly at work. Their weapon is prayer at which their enemies scoff as did the mocking crowds around the Cross of the dying Savior. Our Lady of Fatima has assured us that the recitation of the Rosary is the antidote to Communism.

Where Communism sows the seeds of godlessness, immorality, materialism, hatred and selfishness, the Rosary sows the seeds of faith, hope, charity, Christian virtue and fraternal love. Where Communism destroys authority and sows the seeds of discord and rebellion, the Rosary implants obedience, humility, submission and peace.

When Our Lady asked at Fatima for penance in addition to the Rosary, she asked not merely for acts of mortification but for real contrition and amendment of life, a turning away from sin and real awakening of the spirit. This is emphasized by the words of Jacinta.....on her deathbed, once again narrating the Message of Our Lady of Fatima, Jacinta said that "the sins of the world are too great! Men must do penance! If they amend their lives, Our Lord will still pardon the world, but if not, the Chastisement will come!"

I know that Monsignor Colgan prays for us from heaven. The above message delivered 72 years ago speaks to us today in this culture of death. Not only is Monsignor Colgan interceding for us, but so is Saint Padre Pio, thanks to Monsignor Colgan. It was Monsignor Colgan who asked Padre Pio on October 21, 1961: "Will you accept the Blue Army members as your spiritual children?" Padre Pio agreed, saying: "May they only behave well."

I wish you a Blessed Advent and a Merry and holy Christmas as we prepare for the Second Coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

God love you' Father John