

## Christmas

So many Christmas messages over so many years! I have been asking myself what were the sources of my inspiration. The most important resource for writing about Christmas has to be the Gospel, the good news. I remember also how in earlier times I relied on Father Faber's "*Bethlehem*." It was a difficult book to read, given its Victorian English style. In time I came to recognize the value of each year's Christmas edition of "*The Tablet*," a London journal. Finally, I must add, I read Pope Benedict's Infancy Narratives in the third volume of "*Jesus of Nazareth*." All these were ways to learn a Catholic spirit of Christmas.

The sources were many, but making them personal meant searching the meaning of my own experiences of this wonderful feast. No doubt, mine are not very different from your own. I think here of the joyous and very solemn Christmas Mass. Then, too, there are all those loving Christmas-time gatherings of family and friends. I find that memory fails to recognize much about the gifts received or given. Still, the very human joys added to the experience of a very special day.

This year I want merely to tell you that you surely have your own inspirations. Let yourself take time to recall your memories of those Christmas Masses. Relive the joys of past family gatherings to enrich the joy of any gathering you have this year. In this you will find the real gift of Christmas that is always with you. That gift is the gift of Jesus. He makes Himself yours.

It is my prayer that this Christmas you will let the Spirit of God speak to you of the mystery of Christmas, a mystery of love. May you find Mary and her acceptance of Gabriel's message. May you find St. Joseph revealing his dreams of a life that he could have never imagined. May you find Jesus in all the many ways He comes to you. See Him as the Infant already beginning the work of redemption.

The mystery of Christmas comes alive in our faith, hope and love. It makes us able to give glory to God in the highest and find peace in our good will.

***God love you always!***

***Merry Christmas, Holy Christmas and a Happy New Year, 2015!***

***Monsignor David Morrison***