

CATHEDRAL FAMILY LETTER

DECEMBER 25, 2011

Cathedral of the Risen Christ

A LETTER FROM MR. TONY PRIMAVERA, PRINCIPAL

THOUGHTS AT CHRISTMAS

The preparation and anticipation is over. Christmas is finally here. My thoughts go back to the moment, two thousand years ago when our Almighty Father, who loved us so much, sent His son to live in our world. St. Leo the Great wrote, "The Son of God entered this lowly world coming down from His heavenly throne without departing from his Father's glory. Although invisible in His own nature, He became visible in our nature. The impassible God did not disdain to become a man subject to suffering. The immortal God did not shrink from the laws of death."

Although He came here to die, today is a day of rejoicing. We recall that day when mankind was able to see, touch, and hear our dear Savior for the first time. He came as a baby – a beautiful baby boy. He came to us because a sinless virgin gave her "yes" to God. He came to us under the protection of a just and brave man who took the woman and baby as his own. Today we remember that day . . . that love . . . His love. St. John wrote: "In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins." (1 John 4:10)

This season has always been my favorite. It brings

to mind, with great fondness, waking up on Christmas morning. We ran from our beds, past the small nativity scene with the baby Jesus watching our every move, to the Christmas tree in the living room. In my mind's eye I can still see my beautiful mother, with her black hair not yet gray, smiling from ear to ear and my father taking movies with those huge lights attached to the camera - the contraption looked like something from Star Wars - as my brother, sister, and I ripped through wrapping paper without even noticing the pretty bows. Somehow, Santa Claus always got it right – even if he never brought me that pony. Happiness and love just radiated in our family on that day.

My memories move to later on in life . . . just a few years ago . . . could it be 20 already? . . . Christmas with my own children. I picture my beautiful wife, her dark hair not yet graying, and my three sons. They model their new Cubs' uniforms and try to hit golf balls in the house without their mother seeing them. The smiles. The laughter. The love. Jesus still watching us from the manger.

Yes, it's a great day.

Once again, we'll get caught up in it all . . . opening the gifts, watching

the Bears and Packers on TV, and of course, we'll have that wonderful Christmas dinner.

But in all the hoopla, we certainly can't forget Him - Jesus. The One who came into this world . . . to die for us . . . so that we can join Him in heaven some time later. Jesus. The Ultimate Joy.

I close with something from Bishop Bruskewitz that I have been thinking about. Almost twenty years ago our great bishop quoted from Fr. Hubert Dunphy's book, Christmas Every Christmas: "When you receive Jesus in the Eucharist on Christmas, thank Him for this best of gifts. And if God is so infinitely generous as to surrender Himself to us, can we not abandon ourselves absolutely and without reserve to Him? Do not hold back one small fragment of yourself, reserve nothing for human pride and sensuality. Do not permit the devil or the world or sensual appetites to take one title to one molecule of your being, but give yourself without condition to the God Who has given everything to you. This is the best Christmas present you can give God and, incidentally, the best you can give yourself."

From all of us at Cathedral School . . . We wish you the most blessed of Christmas Seasons!



The Holy Family

Our next Mass in the Extraordinary Form will be offered on Thursday, January 26. Mass will begin at 3:35 in the Blessed John XXIII Chapel. Please join us!